Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-028
Monday
13 February 1989

Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-89-028 *13 February 1989*

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LD1302143189 [Editorial Report]

Afghanistan

The Afghan Government has information that "unprecedented numbers" of Pakistani troops have massed along the border with Nangarhar Province in preparation for an "armed aggression" aimed at capturing Jalalabad, President Najibullah stated in a speech broadcast by Kabul radio 11 February.

He linked this development with the "sinister plan and expansionist aims" of Pakistan's "militarists" that were highlighted by the Pakistani president's recent call for a "confederation" with Afghanistan.

The creation of such a joint state would allow Pakistan to "swallow" Afghanistan and turn it into a Pakistani province, Najibullah warned.

He claimed that Afghan opposition leaders, particularly the "extreme" wing, are "selling out their country" by supporting this plan in gratitude for Pakistan's assistance.

However, Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto denied that her country is massing troops along the Afghan border, stressing that Pakistan faces many internal problems and does not need to indulge in adventures outside its territory, Islamabad radio reported.

Moscow radio and TASS supported Najibullah's claims by reporting that several thousand Pakistani servicemen have deployed along and inside the Afghan border and are already giving active support to the opposition in its siege of Jalalabad.

An AFP report on the military situation confirmed that the Afghan Government is expecting a major attack on Jalalabad, noting that Scud missiles were fired over the weekend at rebel targets east of the city.

As for the opposition's efforts to convene a shura (consultative council), AFP cited reports that a further attempt will be made in Rawalpindi 13 February.

The session on 10 February was adjourned after the Iran-based factions boycotted the meeting to protest the number of seats allocated to them.

A shura spokesman cited by Islamabad radio dismissed earlier reports that Sibghatullah Mojaddedi has been replaced as chairman of the seven-party alliance.

Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi, who had been mentioned as Mojaddedi's replacement, has been appointed only as president of the shura, and Mojaddedi continues as chairman of the alliance.

In related developments, Mojaddedi's National Liberation Front warned that it will review its decision to attend the shura if Mojaddedi's recent agreement with the eight-party alliance in Iran is not honored, Tehran radio reported.

An Iranian envoy arrived in Pakistan over the weekend to discuss the Afghan situation with Pakistani and mujahidin leaders, IRNA noted.

An Afghan Government announcement carried by TASS urged commanders of opposition military units to hold direct talks with government representatives to find ways to stop the bloodshed in Afghanistan.

The Afghan Government is prepared to consider "all viewpoints, proposals, and demands" and will guarantee that all those who join the national reconciliation process will participate in managing the country's affairs, the statement said.

Regarding the UN plan to airlift supplies to the capital, Kabul radio confirmed that an Ethiopian Airlines plane delivered wheat to the city on 10 February.

However, a UN official cited by AFP noted that the airlift was later stopped after the Ethiopian pilot received instructions from Addis Ababa not to continue the flights.

Pakistan

Riot at USIS Building—Five people were killed and 21 wounded when police clashed with demonstrators outside the USIS center in Islamabad, according to Islamabad radio.

A group of "troublemakers" among the demonstrators started shooting at the police, who fired back, the radio reported.

However, officials from Islamic opposition parties claimed that the police provoked the violence by firing tear gas at a "peaceful" procession that was protesting the U.S. decision to allow publication of Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses," the radio noted.

Eyewitnesses cited by AFP stated that the police opened fire when thousands of demonstrators tried to break into the USIS building.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto expressed "deep regret" over the incident in a message from the PRC reported by Islamabad radio.

She said the demonstrators were protesting something that has nothing to do with Pakistan, which has already banned Rushdie's book and is seeking to have it banned elsewhere.

The timing of the incident shows that the demonstrators' real objectives were to harm the stability of Pakistan and undermine its relations with friendly nations, Bhutto maintained.

PRC Visit—Bhutto stated that her visit to the PRC over the weekend achieved "remarkable results," Beijing television reported.

According to XINHUA, she said her talks with PRC leaders dealt with the international situation and bilateral relations, but denied that she had discussed the purchase of Chinese fighter aircraft.

Diplomatic sources cited by KYODO said the talks dealt with the Afghanistan issue and bilateral relations.

Missiles—Surface-to-surface missiles with ranges of 80 km and 300 km were successfully test fired 11 February, Islamabad radio reported, noting that the missiles demonstrated "the desired performance."

Iran

In an 11 February speech broadcast by Tehran radio, President 'Ali Khamene'i declared that Iran is prepared to have "friendly, mutual, and balanced relations with all countries and all governments, as long as they do not conspire against us, are not hostile to us, and as long as they properly recognize the rights of the Iranian nation."

However, he added that there are some exceptions: there are "a few known governments" with which Iran is "under no circumstances" ready to have relations because they are "illegitimate" or have a "long history of conspiracy" against the Iranian nation.

Khamene'i also stressed that there is "no power struggle" between officials in Iran, though he acknowledged that there are differences in "opinion and taste."

In another development, IRNA reported that the authorities released more than 800 prisoners over the weekend in accordance with the general amnesty granted by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

More prisoners will be released in the near future, the agency said.

However, the banned Tudeh Party issued a statement in Paris claiming that the Iranian authorities are continuing to execute large numbers of political prisoners, AFP noted.

In Qom, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri welcomed the amnesty and stressed the need to absorb the released "minigroup" members into society without bias against them, Tehran radio reported.

Noting that many "good people" are still afraid of persecution, he called for the creation of an atmosphere of freedom in which "all the devoted revolutionaries who have ideas can state them" without fear.

Montazeri also called for a review of the past decade so that mistakes can be identified and accounted for.

He said the mistakes included the propagation of slogans that were impossible to carry out and made foreigners and Iranian exiles afraid to come to Iran.

Many Iranian exiles have special knowledge that can benefit the country and they should be invited to return to help in reconstruction, he asserted.

According to IRNA, Montazeri said there are "nearly four million" exiles who should be encouraged to return.

Iran-Iraq Negotiations

'Ali Akbar Velayati and Tariq 'Aziz, the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq, together with the UN Secretary General, met for talks in New York 10 February, IRNA reported.

The two ministers responded "positively" to the secretary general's proposal to resume the peace talks in New York in March, the agency added.

A commentary on the meeting broadcast by Tehran radio noted that the two sides also agreed to hold "technical talks" to prepare for the peace talks and that the stay of the UN peacekeeping forces will be extended for another 6 months.

Iran will release a group of Iraqi POW's "next week," according to a "reliable" source cited by IRNA 13 February.

The announcement follows the declaration by Velayati that Iran will release 260 Iraqi POW's to mark the Iranian revolution anniversary.

PLO Affairs

Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf declared that the PLO "will not recognize Israel unless Israel recognizes the PLO," Kuwait's AL-WATAN reported 11 February.

He added that neither the Algiers PNC session nor PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's Geneva speech "featured recognition of Israel."

Khalaf welcomed Syria's decision to suspend its propaganda campaign against the PLO but denied Syria had invited a PLO delegation to pay a visit.

'Arafat claimed in an interview with the Italian daily L'ESPRESSO that the Israeli secret service planned to assassinate him last November in an operation code-named "the Best Hit."

He also told Rome's IL MESSAGERO that Israel has continued to send "under-the-table" messages to the PLO through Palestinian representatives in the "occupied territories, other channels in Europe, and elsewhere," according to ANSA.

However, Yitzhaq Moda'i, Israeli economics and pLanning minister, rebutted 'Arafat's claims of indirect contacts with the Israeli Government as "propaganda with no leg to stand on," Jerusalem radio reported.

On the other hand, the Labor Party's Moshe Shahal did not rule out the PLO as a negotiating partner providing the PLO "recognizes Israel's right to exist, renounces terrorism, and accepts UN Resolutions 242 and 338," the radio added.

'Arafat was received by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo 11 February and left for Tunis the next day, according to MENA.

A DFLP spokesman cited by Radio Monte Carlo "rejected" Secretary of State James Baker's warning not to continue with military operations across the Israeli-Lebanese border.

He said these operations will continue as long as "the territory of the Palestinian state" is occupied, the radio added.

Lebanon

East Beirut Clash— A 10 February clash between members of the Lebanese Forces (LF) and Lebanese Army in the Al-Judaydah area was "isolated" and had "no political background," according to an LF spokesman cited by Voice of Lebanon radio.

The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon acknowledged that the clash caused "great tension," noting that it followed earlier incidents in 'Uyun al-Siman.

Among reportage from West Beirut, the clandestine Voice of the People linked the clashes with the "power struggle" between General Michel 'Awn and LF commander Samir Ja'ja'.

Beirut radio reported that the LF kidnapped 55 Lebanese Army members but subsequently released them in return for a number of LF militiamen who were detained by the Army.

The radio cited reports that six people were wounded in the Al-Judaydah incident.

Amal-Hizballah Agreement—The Amal Movement and Hizballah exchanged prisoners 10 February in accordance with their recent peace agreement, Beirut radio reported.

Meanwhile, residents returned to villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah following Hizballah's withdrawal earlier in the week.

Al-Fatayri Assassination—AFP reported that the PSP has arrested the assassin of PSP militia commander Anwar al-Fatayri.

The man was among a group of Druze opposed to the PSP policy of encouraging Christian refugees to return to their former homes in the Al-Shuf area.

Egypt

Interior Minister Zaki Badr announced the discovery of an "extremist terrorist" organization with a network spread throughout "most" Arab states, AL-AHRAM reported 9 February.

The minister claimed that the organization used religion as a cover and was planning to work against Egypt.

Security forces discovered a hideout for fundamentalist groups in Cairo 12 February, MENA reported.

Hand grenades and a "large" quantity of ammunition were also discovered, the agency added.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Syrian Diplomacy—Syria's participation in an Arab economic integration plan with Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and the YAR was one of the topics discussed during Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi's recent visit to Jordan, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

A Jordanian source cited by the radio maintained that Syria's differences with Iraq and Egypt will not prevent its participation.

In remarks reported by Amman radio, Al-Zu'bi said the Syrian leadership will decide on the best means to promote economic integration with Jordan, adding that bilateral trade exchanges are expected to reach $200 million.

In another development, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam held talks with King Fahd in Saudi Arabia 11 February, SPA noted.

Maghreb Summit Difficulties—"Serious difficulties" are threatening to undermine the Arab Maghreb summit conference scheduled for 15 February, TANJUG reported.

Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is "dissatisfied" with the draft document on the creation of the Greater Maghreb and has presented a new initiative on union between the Maghreb countries and the Sahel countries, the agency noted.

Libyan Tour—Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, arrived in Muscat 12 February and was received the next day by Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, JANA reported.

Jabir also paid a short visit to the PDRY 12 February, Aden radio noted.

Gulf Affairs

Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim announced 11 February the release of two people convicted of sabotage in 1983, KUNA reported. The minister denied that the release had anything to do with the demands of "radical organizations" or the April 1988 hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner.

The Regional Organization for the Protection of Marine Environment (ROPME) is to meet in Kuwait 27 February to discuss clearing the Gulf of mines laid during the Iran-Iraq war, IRNA reported.

The international shipping lanes in the Gulf are clear of mines, according to ROPME's assistant executive secretary cited by KUNA, but there is still a danger from mines laid by Iran and Iraq in their territorial waters.

Inter-Arab Affairs

TANJUG Cites Difficulties in Maghreb Summit

LD1202195489 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1744 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Tripoli, Feb 12 (TANJUG)—Serious difficulties have emerged, threatening to undermine the summit of the five countries of the Arab Maghreb, scheduled to open in Marrakesh, Morocco, on February 15.

Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid will arrive in Libya tomorrow (?on) something of a "rescue mission", as TANJUG has learned from informed Arab circles in Tripoli. President Bendjedid will try to appease Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who is obviously displeased with the working paper prepared for the summit, and to make sure Al-Qadhdhafi participates in the Marrakesh conference.

The Libyan leader, as has been learned, is dissatisfied with the draft document on the creation of the so-called big Mahgreb, which is to be ratified in Marrakesh, considering it to be too global. Al-Qadhdhafi calls for a moral radical programme of the creation of a Maghreb federation, one which would clearly define the duties of the participating states, deadlines and political institutions of the future community.

Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi two days ago came forward with a new idea about a union of the five Magreb countries and the African countries of the Sahel and invited the ambassador of Sudan, Chad and Niger to explain his project to them.

The Libyan leader's initiative obviously caused confusion among the other four countries of the Maghreb, since Al-Qadhdhafi could decide against travelling to Marrakesh if his plan fails to be accepted. That would place the summit in question.

Economic Grouping Leaders To Meet in Baghdad

JN1202142889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] It has been learned from an authorized source that the Jordanian capital will be the headquarters of the general secretariat of the economic grouping among Cairo, Sanaa, Amman, and Baghdad.

The same source said that next Thursday, the four countries' prime ministers will meet in Baghdad, where a summit conference will be convened by King Husayn of Jordan, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to announce the birth of the grouping, which will be called the Arab Cooperation Council.

During their meeting in Amman [as heard], the prime ministers will approve the organizational structure of the Arab Cooperation Council, which was prepared by economic experts from the four countries. A group of experts is expected to arrive here tomorrow, Monday, to prepare for the Tuesday meetings in the Jordanian capital.

According to informed sources in Amman, the council will have a higher executive body comprising the prime ministers of the concerned countries, and an annual summit will be held by the leaders of these countries. The source added that the objective of the council is economic unity, which is the main step toward comprehensive unity. The council will also have a strong and detailed economic program to turn the current bilateral economic cooperation into a quadripartite integration.

Joint Communique on Libyan-YAR Meetings

LD1102183189 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Feb 89

["Text" of joint communique on third session of Arab Libyan-Yemeni Higher Committee, issued in Tripoli and Sanaa on 11 February]

[Text] A joint communique was issued in Tripoli and Sanaa today at the end of the third session of the Arab Libyan-Yemeni Higher Committee, which is composed of the General People's Committee of the great Jamahiriyah and the Council of Ministers of North Yemen. The text follows:

Stemming from the will of the one Arab people to embody the factors of integration in order to achieve comprehensive Arab unity; out of a conviction that the Arab homeland is an indivisable entity; under authorization of the two leaders Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great Al-Fatih revolution, and his brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah al-Salih, president of the Yemeni Republic, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and the secretary general of the General People's Congress; in accordance with the aspirations of the one Arab people in the great Jamahiriyah and the Yemen Arab Republic to strengthen the factors of integration and the intensification of all material and human potential and resources for the sake of achieving unity; and in a friendly atmosphere which affirms the depth of historical ties between the Arab people in the two countries, the Libyan Arab-Yemeni Higher Committee ended its third session under the chairmanship of the secretary of the General People's Committee of the Great Jamahiriyah, and Yemeni prime minister, member of the Permanent Committee in North Yemen, and the member of the committee from both sides.

At its meetings, the higher committee reviewed the achievements within the framework of cooperation and expressed satisfaction with what has been accomplished in accordance with what had been stated in the minutes of the second session of the higher committee in Tripoli. It affirmed the need to implement what had been arrived at.

The committee also reviewed the minutes of the preparatory joint committee of the third session of the committee. After debating and studying them and the thorough bilateral meetings that took place between the two countries, agreement was reached on the following:

I. Economics, Commercial and Financial Cooperation

In the sphere of investment, the committee recorded its satisfaction with the ratification of the basic popular congresses in the great Jamahiriyah and the agreement of the YAR Consultative Council to establish a holding Arab Yemeni-Libyan company. It called for the completion of necessary arrangements so that the agreement may be enforced while specialists from both countries meet to draw up the basic rules and sign them as soon as possible;

There was agreement to set up an agricultural company and a joint company for oil requirements through the holding Arab Yemeni-Libyan company. A meeting of specialists should take place in the second half of 1989 to draw up the studies and lay down necessary foundations to establish the two companies.

In the sphere of loans, the committee confirmed the implementation of what had been agreed upon in the minutes of the higher committee during its second session.

A draft agreement on trade exchange was submitted in order to discuss it and work for its adoption. Representatives of the general federation of the chambers of trade, industry, and agriculture in Sanaa will meet during the first half of 1989 in order to discuss the draft agreement on establishing joint chambers of trade and to sign its final formula. A program of exchange of visits between the export and import institutions and companies of the two countries during the second half of 1989 will be established.

Priority will be given to importing goods and products manufactured in the two countries and applying the principle of barter whenever this is possible. There will be a study of the draft agreement on avoiding duplication of income tax with the proviso that a meeting will take place no later than 31 March 1989 in Tripoli.

In the sphere of petroleum: Renewing the agreement which was signed in October 1986.

II. Technical Cooperation

In the sphere of planning: The committee expressed satisfaction with what has been implemented in the sphere of planning. It stressed the necessity for cooperation in the preparation of specifications, criteria, and standards, and the exchange of visits between specialists and technicians particularly in the sphere of regional planning, and benefiting from experiences and the potentialities available to the countries.

In the sphere of agriculture: Intensification of efforts and cooperation in the spheres of agricultural research, animal resources, and the study of soil and water; exchange of information and cooperation in combating desertification, plagues affecting agriculture, and desert locusts.

In the sphere of sea fishing: Setting up a committee to study the means of cooperation in the sphere of sea fishing and investments, with the proviso that this committee would meet in the second half of 1989.

In the sphere of communications and transport: Running a regular air route between the two countries; linking the two countries with direct telephone circuits as from the date of this communique, and increasing them according to usage; starting a fast postal service immediately after the launching of air transport between the two countries; utilizing the technical experience within the two countries in the sphere of communications and post.

In the health sphere: The committee recorded satisfaction with cooperation achieved in the health sphere, stressing the necessity to continue it.

In the industrial sphere: Cooperation in the various industrial spheres, intensification of contacts and meetings between experts of the two countries.

In the sphere of vocational training: Benefiting from the potential available in the two countries in the sphere of industrial and agricultural training and in field training in the various spheres.

III. The Sphere of Education, Youth, Sports, Information, and Culture

Preparation of an executive program in the sphere of education, youth, and sports; meetings in order to formulate an agreement on information and cultural cooperation and signing it during the second half of 1989.

At the end of the third session of the Libyan Arab-Yemeni Higher Committee, the following was decided: To formulate a definite timetable for bilateral meetings between the brother secretaries and ministers in order to discuss the implementation what has been agreed upon, with the proviso that the first meeting would take place in Tripoli between the secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning of the great Jamahiriyah and the deputy prime minister, minister of development, the head of the central body for planning, and a member of the Permanent Committee.

The convening of the fourth session during May 1990 in the great Jamahiriyah.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Rejects Baker's Warning on Operations

JN1302062389 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] The PLO yesterday rejected the U.S. warning against the recent Palestinian infiltration attempt into Israel across the Lebanese-Israeli borders. The PLO reaffirmed that nothing can stop the legitimate struggle against the Israeli occupier.

The Palestinian news agency stressed in Tunis yesterday that the PLO is waging a legitimate struggle that will stop only after the Palestinian people have regained their rights. It also rejected the statements made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, in which he said operations against the civilian and military targets inside or outside Israel cause problems for the United States.

The Palestinian news agency expressed surprise that the new U.S. Administration is beginning its tenure by sending warnings to an organization that is waging a battle against the occupier according to international laws and treaties and by denying the Palestinian people a right it concedes to the Afghan resistance. The PLO stressed that nothing can stop the intifadah [uprising] and that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker should have addressed his warnings to the Israeli rulers.

PLO To Keep Up Attacks

WA1302032889 Paris AFP in English 0103 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Tunis, Feb 13 (AFP) - The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has vowed to continue military attacks against Israel despite a warning from Washington that such operations could harm the new U.S.-PLO dialogue.

In an official statement released here late Sunday, the PLO news agency WAFA said that "nothing can stop our legitimate struggle against the Israeli occupier."

(Earlier Sunday, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), a key PLO faction, released a similar statement in Damascus asserting that the military operations against Israel would continue as long as "the state of Palestine remains occupied.")

Both statements followed a warning from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker last week that a Palestinian incursion into south Lebanon on February 5 that triggered a clash with Israeli troops, could harm the nascent U.S.-PLO relationship.

"The PLO is surprised that the new American Administration has begun its mandate by sending warnings," WAFA said, adding: "Mr. Baker should know that the PLO is anxious to pursue the Palestinian-American dialogue."

After the U.S. warning to the PLO, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens appealed to Washington to abandon its official contacts with the PLO, which began late last year after PLO chairman Yasser Arafat renounced terrorism and recognized Israel's right to exist.

(Separately, Syrian Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas said in Damascus that Syria would make no separate bargains with Israel that would undermine the interests of Palestinians.

(Speaking to senior members of the ruling Ba'ath party, Gen. Talas said that Damascus "would not permit" any steps toward making an agreement with Israel "to the detriment of our people and of our revolution in the occupied country," territories currently occupied by the Israeli army.

(Gen. Talas added that the Gulf war had destroyed the "military potential of Iran and Iraq," which he said would have been put to better use against Israel.)

DFLP Rejects Warning

JN1202114289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] A DFLP spokesman has rejected U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's warnings and said that the Palestinian military operations will continue as long as the territory of the Palestinian state is occupied. The DFLP asked the U.S. Administration to direct its warnings to the Tel Aviv rulers, the human rights violators, instead of the PLO.

James Baker had warned the PLO that he considered the recent Palestinian operations along the Lebanese-Israeli borders as posing great problems for the United States.

U.S. Reportedly To Sponsor PLO-Israeli Talks

JN1102102689 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 9 Feb 89 pp 1, 19

[Excerpt] Amman—European diplomatic sources have disclosed to AL-SIYASAH that a major round of secret negotiations between the PLO and the Labor Party, which is participating in the Israeli coalition government, will take place in Washington on 13 March.

The PLO will be represented in these negotiations by Khalid al-Hasan, Nabil Sha'th, and Bassam Abu Sharif, while the Israeli side will be represented by members of the Knesset and the Labor Party led by Shim'on Peres.

As these negotiations coincide with the visit to Washington by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, it is believed that Washington wants, through these talks, to put additional pressure on Shamir to make concessions that will help in expediting the convening of an international conference. Holding these talks in Washington means that the U.S. Administration agrees on and in fact sponsors them. [passage omitted]

Morocco Denies Mediating PLO-Israel Meeting

LD1102123389 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Rabat, 11 Feb, MAP—The Spanish news agency EFE quoted Palestinian sources in Tunisia as saying that Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], the second man in the PLO, met with former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban in Morocco at the end of January, thanks to Moroccan mediation.

Authorized Moroccan sources and sources close to the Palestinian Embassy in Rabat have totally denied these unfounded fabrications.

The same sources emphasized that Morocco, which adheres to the Palestine National Council Resolutions, could not undertake any initiatives that are not within an Arab context and ratified by a summit.

'Arafat on Israel's Attacks on PLO Leaders

AU1102154389 Rome ANSA in English 1237 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, February 11—Israel authorities, while publicly refusing any contact with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), have continued to send "under-the-table" messages to the Palestinian group, PLO President Yasir 'Arafat said in an interview published in today's edition of the Rome daily IL MESSAGGERO.

Asked whether he thought Israel would accept an eventual peace package offered by the PLO, 'Arafat replied: "I am sorry to say that this Israeli Government rejects all peace initiatives. They say no to the PLO, to an international peace conference and, day after day, increase their demands, refuse dialogue".

'Arafat then commented on the apparent shift in the position adopted by Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir, regarding autonomy for the residents of the Israeli occupied Palestinian territories. "We must wait and see" 'Arafat affirmed, adding "the intifadah (popular uprising) will force it (Israel) to understand reality. In 1982, (Ari'el) Sharon and (Menahem) Begin said only two or three days would be needed to liquidate the PLO. Instead it has been the longest Israeli-Arab conflict in history. Begin was forced to resign. And the war, in southern Lebanon, continues.

Asked whether the offer of peace with Israel he made before the United Nations was valid for all Arab nations, the PLO leader answered "this is obvious and clear. In Geneva I was accompanied by Arab foreign ministers. A committee was formed within the Arab League. Seven foreign ministers, seven nations among which is Syria will coordinate a joint peace effort".

'Arafat then gave his view on Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal to hold elections in the occupied territories. "We have nothing against this" 'Arafat said, "on the condition that israel withdraws its troops and they are held under the aegis of the UN. We cannot forget the last elections in 1976. Where are those elected now? Some have been deported, some arrested, some killed, others wounded by bombs placed under their automobilies. This was an important, serious lesson which we do not wish to repeat".

On the question of secret contacts between Tel Aviv Authorities and the PLO, 'Arafat affirmed "there have been many messages sent under the table through our representatives in the occupied territories and through other channels in Europe and elsewhere".

Asked whether this was a step forward for the Israeli Government, the PLO leader replied "even in the past we had these indirect contacts. During the siege of Beirut there were negotiations through Washington envoy Philip Habib".

Looking at the Middle East crisis in the framework of the present international picture, 'Arafat affirmed "this is an historic moment for detente. Many regional crisis are on their way to being resolved. The only area left out of this is the Middle East. The United States has spoiled its naughty child, Israel. But sooner or later they will have to follow the current of history".

On the question whether he feared new attacks by Israel against the Palestinian movement, 'Arafat stated "according to my information they intend to operate in three directions, based on decisions made by the restricted Israeli cabinet. The secret service, the Mosad, has been given the order to continue attacks against our leadership. Repression will increase in the occupied territories and at the same time a military offensive is being prepared against southern Lebanon. It may take place late this spring or early summer. It will not necessarily be a war, but a scenario of crisis".

In conclusion, 'Arafat was asked if he was afraid, to which he replied "the Israelis have tried many times to kill me. Even here in Tunis. What is most important to me is the destiny and future of my people".

PLO Committee To Resume Meetings in Tunisia

LD1202180589 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source has announced that the PLO Executive Committee will resume its meetings in Tunisia in the middle of this month under the chairmanship of brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

The source pointed out that the meeting will include the latest developments in the Palestinian arena and efforts exerted for holding an international peace conference, especially the European efforts toward forming the preparatory committee for the conference consisting of the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

The source added that the meeting will also discuss the escalation of the Zionist oppressive practices against the sons of our people in the occupied territories.

Khalaf on Israeli 'Plan' Against Syria, Lebanon

JN1302095089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Feb (WAKH)—Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, has disclosed the dimensions of a plan being implemented by Israel in an attempt to contain the Palestinian move. In a statement published in Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD today, Abu Iyad said that the real objective of all the enemy leaders' initiatives is not to find a solution, but to stop and strike at the intifadah [uprising] as well as to split the Palestinian people.

Abu Iyad did not rule out the possibility that Israel might resort to entering limited clashes with Syria or launching a military offensive on Lebanon to divert the attention from the developments in the intifadah. He warned that the Palestinians will not stand with folded hands in the face of the aggression.

Abu Iyad called for avoiding any rush in declaring the Palestinian government. He added that the political and international atmosphere is not prepared for this. Abu Iyad noted that the PNC has laid down a general outline for this government so that it will comprise members from inside and outside the occupied territory. And its program must be that of the PNC in its recent session, he said.

Abu Iyad affirmed that all the Palestinian charters are geared toward the international conference. He added that whenever we reach a peace agreement it will be guaranteed by the major powers and when the Palestinian state is established the changes will reach everything, including the PLO, so that there will be parties.

Abu Iyad said that as the Israelis have fears the Palestinians have their own fears too. He called for sitting at the international conference to discuss these fears and come out with agreements that will be protected by the major powers and the will of the Arab people. He affirmed that this is genuine peace.

Khalaf on Conditions for Israel

JN1202162489 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 11 Feb 89 pp 1, 17

[By Faruq Hasan]

[Text] Cairo—Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) has declared that the PLO will not recognize Israel unless Israel recognizes the PLO.

Concluding a visit to Cairo the day before yesterday [9 February], Abu Iyad said we have gone as far as we could. Our people are going through the intifadah [uprising] and will make even further sacrifices to promote their natural right to an independent state and to live in peace. They will not agree to halt the intifadah or be swayed by such suggesions as being made by Shamir and others. If the will for peace is there, the PLO has proposed an international conference. He added: "Neither the Algiers PNC session resolutions nor 'Arafat's Geneva speech featured recognition of Israel. We have not recognized Israel. We will do so when they recognize us."

On developments in Palestinian-Syrian relations, he said:

"We have sought to put relations with Syria on an even keel, the last attempt having been made when Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] was martyred. We took his body there to serve as a door leading to restored relations. We met with President Al-Asad and Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. I don't want to go into the problems that were raised by the Syrian side. These can be worked out in minutes. It seems, however, that no decision has been made on a restoration of relations. Since the last PNC session, Syria has suspended its information campaign against us, which is a welcome development. We are anxious to maintain unconditionally relations with Syria. It is not true that they have extended an invitation for a delegation to visit. These are just press reports. There's nothing of the kind."

'Abd Rabbuh Says U.S. Obstructing Dialogue

JN1302163689 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 13 (GNA)—The PLO does not wish to open talks with the U.S. for the sake of dialogue but rather to seek a positive role for the American Administration in the Mideast peace process, a senior Palestinian official underlined in an interview with Kuwaiti daily 'AL-WATAN' published Monday.

Member of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh said that such a role should be based on recognizing the Palestinian people's national rights especially statehood and approving the international conference with PLO participation.

Washington also should lift political protection for Israeli occupiers' crimes and terrorism he went on.

'Abd Rabbuh called on the new U.S. Administration to adopt clear stands toward such major questions in any future round of talks and pointed out that in absence of such a clear stance the dialogue will turn into a waste of time and attempts to spread illusions of a change in the American policy.

He accused the new administration, meanwhile of obstructing the convening of the second round of dialogue on claims that it was revising its policies particularly concerning the dialogue issue.

The Palestinian official recalled that the organization had proposed a meeting grouping all confrontation states with Israel along with the PLO to coordinate stands on the international conference and discuss all issues pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

U.S. Position Termed 'Vague'

NC1302095289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0921 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Feb (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh has described the U.S. position on dialogue with the PLO as vague. The Palestinian official, whose remarks appear in today's issue of the Kuwaiti newspaper "AL-WATAN," said that the pretext being put forward for the vaguness and ambiguity in the U.S. position is that the new U.S. Administration is reevaluating its policies, particularly with regard to its dialogue with the PLO.

'Abd Rabbuh said that the PLO desires to establish ties with Syria, hinting at a possible Palestinian-Syrian meeting.

'Abd Rabbuh said that the PLO has called for a meeting of the Frontline countries and the PLO to coordinate stands on an international conference and other issues concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict.

'Abd Rabbuh Meets Congressman

JN1202212089 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1922 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, received Wayne Owens, member of the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Subcomittee on Europe and the Middle East, in Tunis last night.

They reviewed the latest political developments in the Middle East and the Palestinian peace initiative, in addition to the grave escalation of the Israeli acts of oppression against our Palestinian people in the occupied territories. During the meeting, the need was stressed for the United States to take clear stands on the convening of the international peace conference on the Middle East, the recognition of the inalienable Palestinian rights, and the removal of the U.S. cover for Israel's terrorism against the Palestinian (?revolution).

Owens is visiting Tunis for meetings with the Palestinian leadership.

PFLP's Habash Holds News Conference in Sanaa

NC1002213089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Sanaa, 10 Feb (MENA)—George Habash, PFLP secretary general, has emphasized that the Palestinian problem in all its aspects can only be solved by holding an international peace conference, recognizing the independent Palestinian state, and returning Palestinians to their homes.

At a news conference in Sanaa today, Habash expressed the hope that the coming years will witness the establishment of a Palestinian state. In this regard, he called on Arab states to double their efforts in order to turn the Palestinian declaration of independence into a reality.

In the meantime, the Palestinian official called on members of the UN Security Council to adopt an emergency decision on protection for the Palestinian people, in view of the barbaric escalation of the Israeli repressive measures against the uprising. Habash appealed to the world to exert pressure and shoulder its responsibility toward ending the sufferings and the grave sacrifices made by the Palestinian people for the sake of freedom and independence.

At the news conference, the Palestinian official expressed his conviction that diplomatic efforts will not be enough to achieve independence, particularly in view of the Israeli and U.S. stands, which seek to abort the uprising politically. Habash contended that the only way to compel Israel to take the matter seriously is to escalate and consolidate the uprising. He noted, in this regard, that the policy of concessions will only enhance Israel's arrogance and haughtiness.

Touching on U.S.-Palestinian meetings held recently in Tunis, Habash expressed the belief that, according to the U.S. viewpoint, the future of such negotiations depends on gradually getting rid of the PLO and replacing it with a provisional government. He pointed out that the continuation of these negotiations is one of the Palestinian demands.

Habash denied that the goal of the recent fedayeen operation in South Lebanon was to torpedo or halt the U.S.-Palestinain dialogue. He asserted that its only goal was to make the United States feel that it must persevere with and continue this dialogue, despite the armed struggle.

Habash also welcomed the recent U.S. report on the violation of human rights in the occupied territories. He noted, however, that U.S.-Israeli relations are still governed by the principle of strategic alliance.

It is worth noting that Habash arrived in Sanaa on Monday on a visit to the YAR expected to last several days.

'Arafat Delivers Message on 'Uprising'

JN1002184489 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1610 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Message by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the Palestinian people on the 15th month of the Palestinian "people's uprising"—date, place not given; read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. God made it but a message of hope for you and an assurance to your hearts; in any case, there is no help except from God, the exalted, the wise. [Koranic verses]

O our masses, the masses of the blessed people's uprising. O our heroes, the heroes of the overwhelming popular revolution. O sons of our great Palestinian people in the beloved homeland, in southern Lebanon, in exile, and in the diaspora: We begin our 15th month of the glorious uprising with a faith that is filling our hearts and consciences; with unwavering, indestructible determination; with a firm, strong resolve; and with an ever-increasing and growing persistence.

We begin the 15th month with the unlimited ability to make sacrifices and record this unique epic of resistance by people who have resolved to live free and sovereign over their independent, free land. Our people's prestige has been enhanced and their position heightened in the history of people's struggle in the contemporary world. We declare that this uprising began with all this faith and momentum and with this roaring march toward our unchanging aim of winning freedom and independence toward our independent, free state and toward its capital, holy Jerusalem.

O brave people of the uprising, O steadfast and fighting masses, O brave fighters in the Unified National Leadership, the people's committees, and popular frameworks; O steadfast heroes in southern Lebanon and the diaspora: Our blessed popular uprising is being entrenched, escalated, and continued; our sincere men, women, boys, and children are armed with our sacred stones in facing the fiercest enemy our blessed land has ever known.

Let us continue to change the landmarks of the fate that they wanted for our people. They wanted to keep our people as slaves under their occupation, but we consider our struggle to be a cultural challenge, to be or not to be, to live as free and sovereign people over our land and the land of our forefathers.

This confrontation resulted in this battle—unique in kind, form, and even results—between the Israeli soldier armed with the most advanced and sophisticated weapons of destruction and this Palestinian cub who is armed with faith and determination and who sucked with his mother's milk the love of this homeland and its sacred soil—a battle between the Israeli army, its modern machine of repression, and its numerous allies, and this militant, steadfast people. Eventually, faith, determination, and blood beat the sword.

The world stood aghast before the greatness of the Palestinian performance in opposing this Israeli arrogance and the Palestinians' sacrifices and struggle for the sake of the homeland. Therefore, we won such great international support and sympathy, which is growing and escalating. Many stands were changed, and many states came to know the Palestinian facts. We have seen this great amount of support, backing, assistance, and clear recognition of our people's inalienable rights of return, self-determination, national independence, and establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

Moreover, some of these positions, which used to support Israel, also changed into new ones that condemn in clear words the practices of the new fascists against our steadfast and proud people. O sons of our great people, are not the changes a new sign of the duel created by the brave uprising by penetrating the international conscience? Are not these changes and new developments a result of the sacrifice of the caravans of the martyrs, the wounded, and the captives?

Are not these changes a result of the sacrifice of the cohesion and harmony of the children of stones and the cubs of the RPG [as heard] and the cohesion of the strugglers in the homeland with their brothers in the areas of confrontation and steadfastness in the diaspora? This epitomizes the Palestinian reality in the clearest image and meaning and in the strongest cohesion and unity.

Over the past weeks, we followed up our brave people's men, women, children, and youths, who advance every day and even every moment toward the desired goal and toward freedom and independence. Your sacrifices, strong steadfastness, awareness, and the cohesion of your ranks are new steps toward the road of freedom. Your uprising, which raises the banner of freedom, struggle, sacrifice, national unity, and the PLO, is knocking at the door of history, opening the doors and arenas of the world, and attracting support and solidarity.

At the same time, the fascist occupiers are registering a retreat on every level. Your sacred stones and the blessed blood of the righteous sons of our people are besieging the occupiers, defeating their weapons, and shaking their myth. Our people's peaceful masses, who are armed only with stones, slogans, and belief in their right, exposed forever the falsehood of the alleged Israeli democracy before a world that watches the historic scene in the holy land as was the case in the past and during the crises of the battles in this good land, whose air is full of the scent of the martyrs.

Therefore, it was not a surprise, especially after the occupiers faced their historical and cultural ordeal as a result of the sweeping uprising of our people, that the occupiers have resorted to more mad repression, believing that it will save them from their ordeal—but they will fail. Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow but that his light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest it. [Koranic verses].

Let the leaders of Israel and its ally know that time will not move backward; that the time of reality has come; that no repression, killing, demolition of houses, aborting of the pregnant, prisons, detention camps, or crimes of the armed settlers can subjugate or defeat our people; and that our people's will will be the victor because it is the will of God. This land is Arab and will remain Arab, Arab, and Arab in spite of the colonialists. We also expected that the Palestinian political, diplomatic, and information offensive, which is based on the solid

ground of Palestinian steadfastness, the Palestinian revolution, the blessed uprising of the Palestinian people, and the historic resolutions of the 19th PNC session, would besiege Israel.

All this has encircled and isolated Israel. Hence, the occupiers became politically insane, lost their balance, and resorted to a campaign of exposed political maneuvers, believing that they can change the course of events and the facts and developments brought about by Palestinian stones and determination.

Not only this, they even resorted to their (?rotten) old goods and began to talk about the improved and developed Camp David, elections, and old and new plans that all come within the framework of this reckless confusion and the color blindness of this Israeli leadership, which insists on covering the sun with its hands or the hands of fanatical settlers, but to no avail.

O masses of the valiant uprising, you were on watch, confirming the new facts on the ground of the new willpower. All these maneuvers were therefore broken on the rock of your steadfastness, unity, and [word indistinct] presence. The accuracy of its planning and effectiveness has dwarfed the campaign of the new mad campaign of oppression and foiled the tools and weapons of murder before the bravery and determination of our children, women, and men. Mass demonstrations and marches were staged in defiance of the occupier's authority, and the strike forces intensified the momentum of their repeated strikes against the occupiers. Bare chests have once again defeated spears, and pure blood defeated the treacherous fascist sword.

All suspect Israeli maneuvers and plans were buried in their cradle by our people's entrenched unity and our masses' awareness and armament with our PNC program. The clear picture was therefore reaffirmed—that is, there is no alternative to recognizing our people's national rights, foremost of which are their right to self-determination, repatriation, and to establish their independent state. Furthermore, the willpower of our people was entrenched, declaring it an uprising until victory, an uprising until the independent state, and steadfastness, steadfastness until that victory is achieved.

O knights of the uprising; O its children, women, and men; O our heroes in Israeli detention camps, who are (?slapping) the enemy with your steadfastness, pride, and daily perseverence and rejecting their temptations and proposals. Greetings to Faysal [not further identified] and all his beloved brothers for their steadfastness.

O militants of the Unified National Leadership and the popular committees, who are making the willpower of the people and masses; O heroes of the popular frameworks—workers, peasants, women, youths, students, merchants, academics, professionals, craftsmen, and employees: You are confirming the superb national unity and knitting laurels of glory and victory.

O our heroes who are clutching embers in steadfast positions in Lebanon and in confronting the continuous aggressive attacks on the villages, camps, and cities: The coming stage, which will witness the uprising's continuation, growing of roots, and intensification, will also witness Israeli confusion and feverish plots against the masses of our people and our leaderships inside the homeland and in exile. This confusion and these plots will acquire new forms, which will express the intensity of the dilemma experienced by the occupiers.

We know that the most difficult battles are those in the final quarter of an hour. Did we not lose our beloved and cherished Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] then? Did not Sabra, Shatila, and the Burj al-Barajinah fall then? Did we not lose our beloved sons and hearts then? Did not conspiracies and schemes increase in the final quarter hour, including the war scenarios prepared by Israel along with others in southern Lebanon?

Despite all this, I still say loudly and clearly, and let everyone hear it: This revolution came about to stay and this uprising started to triumph, to triumph, to triumph. More steadfastness; more solidity; more sacrifice; and more unity as a unique example of the people's forces, trends, and groupings merging in the melting pot of unified struggle in the homeland and in exile under the banner of the PLO. More persevering action in our next stage to emphasize the importance of our state's frameworks, the state of Palestine on the Palestinian homeland's territory through the institutions, committees, organizations, and frameworks.

More effort to strengthen the national and guidance committees to impose the authority of the people, the authority of the Palestinian state, instead of the Israeli occupation's authority. More action to give a stronger thrust to social solidarity, the economic boycott campaign, and the activity of the specialized committees to confront their conspiracies and economic siege.

O uprising people; O our steadfast people in the camps, villages, and towns; O our steadfast heroes in southern Lebanon and the diaspora; O our youths; O women of Palestine, guardians of our eternal fire; O our men, makers of the epic of triumph; O our wounded, who pride themselves with their wounds, the decorations of struggle and martyrdom; O our brave detainees in the Israeli detention camps and prisons; O sons of the Palestinian state; O guardians of the Palestinian dream of liberty:

Here we are, starting the 15th month of our courageous uprising with our foreheads soaring loftily and our hearts enflamed with hope and confidence; here are the horizons of liberty appearing within reach; here is the state of Palestine a stone's throw away. Greetings to [passage indistinct]. Revolution until victory.

'Uprising' Leadership Issues Call No 34

JN1302083389 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 2002 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Call No 34, issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Palestinian Uprising in the occupied territories—date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Call, call, call. No voice rises above the voice of the uprising, no voice rises above the voice of the people of Palestine, the people of the PLO. Call No 34, call of the PLO, our only representative.

O masses of our independent Palestinian state, a greeting of pride and glory to you. O masses and heroes of the blessed intifadah [uprising], you are continuing the march of independence and national liberation with a glowing militant spirit and liberal revolutionary momentum. At this time, you are both continuing and escalating our valiant intifadah, which is baptized by the blood of martyrs and wounded and by the suffering of the detainees, prisoners, deportees, and prosecuted. With your tumultuous popular revolution, you are daily recording the most splendid epics of heroism and confrontation with the Zionist occupation forces.

These forces are haughtily continuing their savage repressive practices against our rising masses in the various Palestinian camps, villages, and cities through military siege, mass detention, vandalism, genocide, and closure of national and educational institutions in order to peddle the policy of stultification against our people.

The Zionist enemy continues to escalate its campaigns and crimes against our Palestinian people by confiscating their land and continuing to loot the money and property of our masses under the threat of Zionist violence and terrorism on the pretext of levying taxes. It is also intensifying economic pressure by withdrawing millions of shekels from Palestinian markets. Thus, our vicious Zionist enemy is using all sorts of crimes and repression by issuing orders condoning the killing of our people and children, who are struggling for freedom and human dignity and for the attainment of national independence under the banner of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of our people.

The Unified National Leadership commends the steadfastness and heroic confrontation of Tammun's citizens, who are daily confronting the attempts to uproot them from their land. It also praises the heroism and sacrifices of our heroic masses in [word indistinct], Hebron, Jerusalem, and all Palestinian positions in confronting the occupation authorities' attempts to vanquish the Palestinian will. Put up further pupular resistance and struggle with stones, Molotov cocktails, knives, slingshots, catapults, and fire balls in order to defeat occupation.

Masses of the great intifadah, to continue the path of the freedom martyrs, our historic leadership—the PLO—continues to achieve further political and diplomatic successes and gains in the world. It has overcome all the obstacles that the Zionist enemy is trying to place before the Palestinian political movement.

This movement has achieved clear success in drawing European sympathy and support through the important meeting between the PLO Executive Committee delegation under Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and the king of Spain and its prime minister, as well as the meeting with the foreign ministers of Greece, France, and Spain to draw support for the idea of convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East with the participation of the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Administration maintains an absolute bias toward the Zionist enemy by rejecting Palestinian human rights and national aspirations. At the same time, the terrorist Zionist government is trying to throw dust in the eyes of the world through some political ploys to revive stillborn plans and ideas, like those proposed by criminal Shamir, or Rabin, the killer of children, old men, and women. The smallest cub in the intifadah strongly rejects and resists what is called elections, alternative local leaderships to the PLO, and self-rule plans.

Our masses have always declared that the PLO is the only political body representing our people wherever they are. They have also reiterated that there is no alternative to an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital and to the right of return and self-determination. Our people will lie in wait for all attempts to violate the national constants embodied by our people's martyrs and continuation and escalation of the popular revolution under a firm national unity until the occupation is removed and national sovereignty is achieved in our independent Palestinian state.

O masses of our great people, the national unified leadership, the militant arm of the PLO in the state of Palestine, reiterates the pledge and oath to the masses of our people and to the PLO, our sole, legitimate representative. Stemming from a supreme national responsibility, the Unified National Leadership calls for following and entrenching the following steps:

— The National Unified Leadership highly appreciates the response of the owners of many factories and plants to the call for increasing the wages of workers and employees. The National Unified Leadership affirms that the decision to increase wages by not less than 40 percent is obligatory for Palestinian establishments, companies, and factories, as well as for UNRWA employees. In this regard, the leadership calls on all those in charge of these establishments to

respond to this call. Employees committees and unions should follow up all developments. We warn employers against any retaliatory steps against workers committees.

— The National Unified Leadership urges the higher education council to work toward forming a higher educational and academic committee to draw up a national curricula to serve and organize the bases of popular education. We urge all academic and educational cadres and experts to positively contribute toward making this national orientation succeed and to promote practical programs for popular education classes.

— The Unified National Leadership reiterates that no taxes should be paid to the [word indistinct] occupation. In light of this, we urge the merchants' committees in the various areas to unite their stands and call on the heroes of the strike groups to escalate their confrontations with the tax collectors and to seize and set fire to tax records.

— The Unified National Leadership appreciates the workers' and employees' resignation from their posts in the Civil Administration and the police. The Unified National Leadership affirms that those workers and employees as well as the employees and workers in the education department whose salaries and support fund were suspended as a result of the disengagement decision should see competent Palestinian quarters.

— The Unified National Leadership greets our brave merchants' response for expanding their boycott of Zionist products (?within the Palestinian borders). The Unified National Leadership asks the merchants committees to escalate the boycott of these products. We urge the honest sons of our people not to purchase Zionist products and to encourage Palestinian products. Within this framework, the Unified National Leadership warns the agents and brokers of agricultural markets against their suspect attempts to flood the local markets with Zionist agriculture products such as the bananas, citrus fruits, tobacco, and other products. The intifadah strike groups must immediately put an end to these attempts.

— The Unified National Leadership praises the positive initiative of the popular committees and strike groups in the Nabulus areas on boycotting Zionist products with Palestinian alternatives. We call for following this leading example.

— The Unified National Leadership reiterates its call on workers in the Civil Administration, police, Customs, and traffic departments to resign from their posts and join the ranks of our Palestinian people. All appointed municipal and village council committees must immediately tender their resignations. The Unified National Leadership urges the intifadah strike groups to escalate their campaigns against and attacks on these cliques as well as the agents, traitors, and brokers.

— The Unified National Leadership calls on our masses to further form popular committees for guards, education, supply, and relief in all areas to face the requirements of the brave intifadah developments.

— The Unified National Leadership calls on our masses to be alert and vigilant [words indistinct]. The Unified National Leadership calls on our brave masses to be alert and vigilant against the traps of the Zionist intelligence organs, whether in their attempts to disguise themselves by wearing Palestinian clothes and to erect sudden roadblocks, or in their despicable attempts to [word indistinct] or recruit some naive children and youths.

— The Unified National Leadership calls on our Palestinian masses in various parts of our occupied Palestinian state not to deal with or respond to the operations aimed at stealing funds and boosting the Civil Administration through the so-called plan for renewing personal identities. In light of this, the Unified National Leadership strongly rejects any attempt to respond to these aggressive steps.

The Unified National Leadership calls on the youth committees, strike groups, our honest people to render the boycott of the Civil Administration a success and not to support it in purchasing weapons, gas bombs, clubs, and bullets to kill our children, women, old men, and youths of Palestine.

The Unified National Leadership highly values the brave stand taken by the Palestinian lawyers, who announced they would not appear before the Zionist military courts in an attempt to expose the occupation authorities' practices and violation of human rights and the rights of the Palestinian prisoners and detainees. The Unified National Leadership calls on all jurist and humanitarian institutions and organizations to support the Palestinian lawyers and alleviate the suffering of thousands of prisoners and detainees.

O heroes of the people of the intifadah, the greatness of victories lies in maintaining and continuing our people's militant march by consecrating all energies and capabilities to attain the sovereignty of our forthcoming Palestinian state by escalating the popular intifadah and continuing the political and diplomatic moves through the PLO, our sole legitimate representative. In view of this, the Unified National Leadership emphasizes the following political issues:

The Unified National Leadership stresses that the PLO's approval of any political step is the basis of any move. Consequently, the Unified National Leadership announces its outright rejection of the so-called political

and municipal elections, because any elections should be free and democratic, and they can take place only after the elimination of occupation.

The Unified National Leadership stresses that every Palestinian should refuse to act as a substitute for the PLO, which is the only authorized side capable of handling the conflict and the political solution. The Unified National Leadership stresses its outright rejection of the so-called Rabin plan, Shamir plan, and the autonomy plan.

It clearly announces that the compulsory meetings with the occupation officers should not depart from the unanimous Palestinian stands represented in our people's right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of our independent Palestinian state, whose capital is holy Jerusalem, under the banner of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people in all areas of their existence, within the framework of an international peace conference that is attended by all parties to the conflict, headed by the PLO in an independent delegation, and with the participation of the Security Council's five permanent member states and under UN supervision.

The Unified National Leadership appreciates and highly values the European stand that sympathizes with our national cause. We call on Europe to effectively and firmly bring pressure to bear on the occupation authorities and impose the appropriate sanctions that would put an end to their ugly massacres, acts of violence, and barbaric practices against our people.

It is requested to quickly and seriously move toward forcing the Zionist enemy rulers to accept international legality, which calls for the withdrawal of the occupation forces from all occupied Arab and Palestinian territories and for guaranteeing our people's right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of our independent state on our national soil.

International law also calls for convening an international conference to establish the aspired peace with the attendance of the five permanent member states of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict in the region, foremost being the PLO on an equal footing with the others. We call on the European states to influence the American stand toward the convocation of the international conference and our inalienable national rights.

The Unified National Leadership stresses that the recent American stand that the U.S. representative presented to the Human Rights Committee at UN Geneva headquarters on the occupation authorities' crimes and perpetration of barbaric massacres puts in one balance the Zionist occupation army with its lethal equipment and firearms [words indistinct] our glorious intifadah [words indistinct] an end to the intifadah so that the occupation army will end its savage, barbaric, and hostile practices. This American stand is absurd and naive because the intifadah existed and erupted in order to remove occupation from the land of our Palestinian state. It will stop only with the departure of occupiers from the land of our Palestinian state. The American stands against our people and national aims are known, but what is strange is that the United States claims it is respecting human rights.

The Unified National Leadership calls on the Arab states, the Arab League, and all Arab political parties and movements to increase support and backing for the stands of the PLO, as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in all international forums and bodies. It also calls on them to put pressure on the new U.S. Administration to support the Palestinian stands and inalienable rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. The Unified National Leadership calls on the Arab states to stress that there will be no talk about a confederation before the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

O masses of national independence, O people of the PLO, people of struggle and militancy. The Unified National Leadership in the state of Palestine calls for implementing the following militant activities:

— 11 February will be a day of popular indignation to protest the collection of taxes and embezzlement of Palestinian funds;

— 13 February will be a day for escalating the uprising and attacking agents, traitors, appointed committees, and Civil Administration bodies;

— 14 February will be a day for Palestinian popular education;

— 16 February will be a day of popular indignation to confront the herds of Zionist settlers;

— 18 February will be a day of demostrations and crowded sit-ins to protest acts of repression and torture against detainees and prisoners;

— 19-21 February will be days for a comprehensive strike to stress our national rights to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of our independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital under the PLO, our sole, legitimate representative;

— On 22 February, the Unified National Leadership congratulates comrades in the DFLP on its anniversary. This day will be a day of militant escalation;

— 23 and 25 February will be days for Palestinian Molotov cocktails;

—Fridays and Sundays will be days for processions, prayers, and symbolic funerals of martyrs.

Signed: The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah, the PLO, the State of Palestine.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Secretary General on Production, Prices

JN1202172289 Baghdad INA in English 1340 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Vienna, Feb. 12 INA—Dr Subroto, secretary-general of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said the price of 18 dollars fixed by the organization could be achieved at an early stage if non- OPEC oil producing countries reduce their production and OPEC member states commit to their quotas.

In an exclusive statement to INA correspondent, Dr. Subroto said OPEC production ceiling of 18.5 million b/d is part of the offer in the international market and that the other offer for oil comes from non-OPEC countries in addition to the withdrawal from the strategic reserves and way of consuming oil in countries.

He expressed conviction that the current price of oil is reasonable, at least during the first half of this year and that changing it in the future would be defined by the OPEC ministerial conference in the light of all consequences and taking into consideration stability of the level of prices.

Dr. Subroto added that oil experts in non-OPEC countries would meet in London this month to propose reduction of oil production preliminary to submitting it to their meeting with OPEC experts.

The OPEC secretary-general said that the price monitoring ministerial committee would meet in Vienna on 29th instant to consider the commitment of member countries to their quotas in addition to laying down a long term strategy for permanent quotas for member states. The committee includes oil and energy ministers of Algeria, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

On the idea of holding a summit conference for OPEC's member states president, Dr. Subroto said Venezuela would table this matter during the ministerial committee meeting next month in response to the directives of the new Venezuelan president adding that any decision to this effect would be adopted during the ministerial conference next June.

He added that the Venezuelan president tabled this idea to the heads of states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, United Arab Emirates and Algeria pointing out that sufficient preparations should be made for ensuring success of this summit. The first summit was held in 1975.

Dr. Subroto refuted that some OPEC member states marketed part of their oil reserves in addition to their production quotas and said that this could happen when these countries produce less than their fixed quotas.

On reports by the International Energy Agency that OPEC's production reached 19.4 million b/d last month, Dr. Subroto said nobody exactly knows the quantity of oil produced during that period and that quantities of production would reach the Secretariat during this week.

Egypt

Zaki Badr: 'Terrorist Organization' Uncovered

JN1102144289 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 Feb 89 pp 1, 15

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Zaki Badr has announced that an extremist terrorist organization has recently been uncovered. The minister said that this organization, which uses religion as a cover-up, was scheming to work against Egypt.

He added that this organization has a big and interlinked network spread throughout most Arab states. The interior minister went on to say that this organization will soon be named once the investigation of all the implications entailed is completed. He indicated that terrorism has become a commodity being exported by international organizations.

At a popular meeting held at the NDP premises in Aswan, the interior minister said that the emergency law is normal and constitutional and that it has only been used to fight extremism, terrorism, money dealers, drug traffickers, and those who capitalize on trading with the people's food. He added that this law has never been used against thinkers or those who have political opinions of their own.

Zaki Badr said: We do not differentiate between citizens on the basis of party affiliation, as all party members are Egyptians. He indicated that the opposition parties are a part of the system and said: We are always ready to cooperate with them if they show respect for the rule of law and order. He voiced his readiness to open a dialogue with any opposition party to preserve stability and national unity.

The minister pointed out that he will answer 4 inquiries and 30 questions posed by the opposition parties in mid-February and said: Let the debate be permeated with logic and rationality to serve Egyptian interests.

The interior minister indicated that the wise policies being pursued by President Husni Mubarak and his advocacy of democracy and freedom are the basic mainstays of security and stability in Egypt. He added that President Mubarak's directives dictate that we forgive some of the violations committed by the opposition to bolster democratic practices.

The minister said that Egypt is targeted by some malicious parties because of its leading and pioneering regional role.

Zaki Badr affirmed the importance of cooperation and cohesion between the people and the police apparatuses to preserve security and stability, help bring about development, and safeguard investment as the police cannot play their role without the people's support and backing. [passage omitted]

'Hideout' Discovered

NC1202150689 Cairo MENA in English 1443 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Asyut, Feb 12 (MENA)—The security forces uncovered today a hide out of fundamentalist groups in "Al-Ghana'im" city and discovered a Russian made automatic rifle bullets some hand grenades besides a large quantity of ammunition.

Colonel Hani Zaki director of criminal research at Asyut Security Directorate had received information about the hide out and instructed Al-Ghana'im police forces to storm it.

The prosecution is investigating the matter.

Israeli Officials Visit, Propose PLO Talks

JN1102194489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 10 Feb 89 pp 1, 21

[Excerpt] Cairo, Amman, occupied Jerusalem—AL-ITTIHAD, news agencies—Informed political sources in Cairo told AL-ITTIHAD yesterday that a ranking Israeli delegation is currently paying a secret visit to Cairo to discuss with Egyptian officials a number of issues on peace in the region and bilateral relations.

Meanwhile, Salah Khalaf, Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, affirmed the PLO's rejection of any plans or initiatives made by the enemy government to evade the holding of an international peace conference.

The sources said the delegation arrived in Cairo the evening before last [8 February]. It is led by one of the directors of the office of Zionist enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and comprises three senior Israeli Foreign Ministry officials. As soon as it arrived, the delegation held two rounds of talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and with Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of President Husni Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs.

The delegation proposed that a summit be held in Cairo to be attended by President Mubarak, King Husayn of Jordan, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir with the participation of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. During the meeting, issues related to the cause of peace in the region wil be discussed.

The sources added that in the first development of its kind, the Israeli officials revealed that Israel is prepared to hold secret political talks with the PLO, stipulated that specific Israeli conditions be adhered to. These conditions are:

—In these talks the PLO should relinquish the idea of an independent Palestinian state.
—The PLO should also relinquish all decisions that may cause a substantial change in the nature of the conflict.

—This meeting should seek a joint arrangement regarding elections in the occupied territories as well as the discussion of other issues, which were not specified in the Israeli proposal.

The sources asserted that the Egyptian officials rejected in these talks Israel's policy of setting preconditions and stressed the need for the talks to be held publicly. The sources said contacts were held between Israel and the United States during which the U.S. Administration approved the Israeeli proposal. [passage omitted]

Israeli Delegation to Tabah Talks Arrives 12 Feb
NC1202211589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1957 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—The Israeli delegation to the negotiations on the Tabah tourist facilities arrived in Cairo from Tel Aviv tonight. Shimon Shamir, the Israeli ambassador in Cairo, accompanied the delegation.

The Israeli delegation consists of nine members, including Foreign Ministry counselor Nimrod Barqan. The Israeli delegation is expected to resume with the Egyptian side negotiations on the compensation for the tourist facilities in Tabah. The negotiations opened last week.

Mubarak Receives PLO Chairman 'Arafat
NC1102130589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received this morning PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Cairo yesterday evening. Also attending the meeting were Fatah Central Committee member Rafiq al-Natshah, PLO Office Director in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, and Fatah Representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qudrah.

'Arafat Departs for Tunis
NC1302055289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2305 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo for Tunis tonight at the conclusion of a 2-day visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

The Palestinian leader was seen off at the airport by Ambassador Sami Thabit, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

'Abd al-Majid Hails 'Palestinian Initiatives'
NC1002080489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that Egypt is not seeking to embark on an arms race despite its potential and capability in this field. He said that this stems from its policy based on the principle of resolving problems through peaceful means.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti magazine AL-NADWAH to be published tomorow, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said he shares the Arab nations' concerns and hopes, and believes in its role and duty in strengthening the Arab cause. He described the Palestinian uprising as the most important event in the Arab arena since the October 1973 War. He stressed that the Palestinian initiatives have created an international understanding and backing, and ensured the recognition of the Palestinian state by a number of countries.

'Abd al-Majid on Arab Affairs, Bush Government
NC0902121189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1104 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, 9 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has affirmed that Egypt does not seek to enter the arms race, despite its potential and capability in this domain, because its policy is based on resolving problems by peaceful means.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti magazine AL-NADWAH Dr 'Abd al-Majid stated that Egypt wants to preserve its national security without getting involved in arms races, which are of no use in a world seeking to alleviate tension.

In the AL-NADWAH interview, to be published on Saturday, Dr 'Abd al-Majid noted that Egypt shares the concerns and the aspirations of the Arab world and knows its duty in promoting Arab solidarity. He called for inter-Arab coordination to be strengthened.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid added that the Palestinian uprising is the single most significant event within the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict since the October war, noting that the uprising has altered the equation in the region. He described the Palestinian initiatives as a daring and honest process that has garnered the understanding and support of most the world's countries. Thanks to these initiatives, he added, the Palestinian state has earned the recognition of several world countries and a dialogue between the PLO and a number of world capitals has begun.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said he expects there to be an active European role to promote the peace process in the region, in view of the tangible changes in international relations. He called on Israel not to miss this historic opportunity, noting that a just peace is vital and essential to Israel, as many Israelis know.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid described U.S. President George Bush as a man with wide experience in foreign policy, adding that he looks at the new administration with optimism.

Mubarak Receives American Jewish Group

NC1302083589 Cairo MENA in English 0810 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, Feb 13 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received this morning a delegation of the American Jewish Committee, currently visiting here.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and First Foreign Undersecretary and Director of the President's Office for Political Affairs Dr Usamah al-Baz.

Iraqi Justice Minister Brings Message to Mubarak

NC1202062789 Cairo MENA in English 2305 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, Feb 11 (MENA)—Iraqi Justice Minister Akram 'Abd al-Qadir arrived here tonight on an official five-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of his Egyptian counterpart, Faruq Sayf al-Nasr.

Speaking on arrival, he said he is having a verbal message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to President Husni Mubarak.

He said his visit to Egypt comes within the framework of continuation of the process of furthering the two sister countries' deep-rooted ties in all fields.

Iraqi Interior Minister on 3-Day Official Visit

Arrives at Badr Invitation

NC1202115489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—Iraqi Interior Minister Samir 'Abd al-Wahhab arrived in Cairo this afternoon on an official 3-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of Interior Minister Zaki Badr.

The Iraqi minister will hold talks with Minister Badr, who received him at the airport, on the means of strengthening security relations between the two countries.

Discusses Security Cooperation

NC1302101489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0938 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—Talks on security were held between Egypt and Iraq this morning. Interior Minister Zaki Badr headed the Egyptian delegation, while Iraqi Interior Minister Samir 'Abd al-Wahhab headed the Iraqi delegation.

During the talks, the two discussed ways to bolster security cooperation in policework, especially in training courses, residence issues, and exchanging educational grants. [passage omitted]

Resumption of Iraqi-Ethiopian Ties Welcomed

NC1202110389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—Egypt has welcomed the resumption of relations between Iraq and Ethiopia. Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has descirbed this as an important step that will promote cooperation, increase the effectiveness of dialogue between the Arab world and Africa, consolidate stability, and establish peace in the Arab and African arenas.

It should be recalled that Iraq and Ethiopia yesterday decided to restore their diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, thus ending a rupture in relations that lasted several years because of Iraq's support for the Eritrean Liberation Front.

Reportage on Visit of Danish Prime Minister

Arrives on Official Visit

NC0802194289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter arrived in Cairo this evening on a 6-day official visit to Egypt at the invitation of Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

Talks Open; 2 Agreements Signed

NC0902153089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—The Egyptian-Danish talks, which are taking place on the Cabinet premises, opened this morning. Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter began the talks with a private session lasting 30 minutes that was attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. An expanded round of talks was then held which was attended by members of the Egyptian and Danish delegations. [passage omitted]

Following the talks which lasted more than 2 hours, Dr Sidqi said that discussions had focused on bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, and commercial fields. Praising the excellent relations between Egypt and Denmark, Dr Sidqi said that two agreements were signed. The first agreement concerns converting Denmark's loan to Egypt, which totals $40 million, into a grant to be used for the same purpose as the loan—financing industrial and electrical projects.

Sidqi thanked Denmark on behalf of the Egyptian people and government for its cooperativeness. He added that the second agreement concerns preventing dual taxation between the two countries in order to encourage mutual investments and organize the bases for tax treatment of Egyptian and Danish capital in both countries and of Danish investment projects in Egypt.

Dr Sidqi said that Egypt and Denmark have identical views on the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and on the need to hold the international conference for attaining peace in the region in the presence of the permanent Security Council members and the concerned countries, including the PLO. He added that the talks also dealt in detail with the Palestinian situation in the wake of the recent PNC resolutions in Algiers and 'Arafat's speech before the UN General Assembly in Geneva. There was also discussion of the need to establish peace in the Gulf region.

The Egyptian prime minister said that they also talked about the future of economic cooperation between Egypt and the EC, particularly after an economically united Europe is established in 1992. He added that the Danish prime minister explained that European unity will help develop European economic and commercial cooperation with Egypt and all other developing countries. [passage omitted]

Replying to questions from Danish correspondents, Dr Sidqi said he was optimistic about the results of the peace efforts being exerted in the Middle East because they affect the interests of all peoples in the area and respond to the international interest in peace. He expressed hope that the Israeli stand will be more positive toward these efforts.

Sidqi, Schluter Dinner Speeches

NC0902201689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi hosted a dinner banquet at Al-Tahrir Diplomats' Club this evening in honor of Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter and the delegation accompanying him on a visit to Egypt. A number of deputy prime ministers, ministers, and senior officials, as well as the members of the Egyptian delegation to the Egyptian-Danish talks which were held on the cabinet premises this morning, also attended the banquet.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi made a speech at the ceremony in which he welcomed Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter. He said: We appreciate this opportunity to exchange views on important matters of interest to both countries, to our two regions, and to the world. Dr 'Atif Sidqi stressed that the development of relations between Egypt and Denmark is a matter for great satisfaction and that there is much that can be done in the framework of these relations to serve the interests of the two countries.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi expressed confidence that Schluter's visit will give new impetus to developing bilateral cooperation in the political, economic, and cultural spheres.

He added: Our discussions this morning demonstrated that the capabilities to do this are available and that there is a considerable amount of similarity between our viewpoints with regard to the various issues which were discussed.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi voiced Egypt's appreciation and gratitude for the economic aid which Denmark extends to it. He said: The agreement which we signed today is proof of your friendship and understanding.

He added: We in Egypt, like you in Denmark, welcome all the steps that promote a better understanding and building of trust between East and West. He said: We are following with great interest the development of relations between the two superpowers, and we welcome all signs of detente. We also call for strengthening the dialogue between the two superpowers in order to end the nuclear and conventional arms races and to eliminate areas of tension everywhere in the world.

The prime minister declared that the U.S. Administration's decision to begin a dialogue with the PLO is in fact another encouraging development. He noted, however, that despite this fact the situation continues to be unsettled because of Israeli intransigence.

He explained that all the parties to the conflict, except the current Israeli Government, actually support the idea of holding a UN-sponsored international conference in which all the concerned parties, including the PLO and the UN Security Council's permanent members, would participate. He pointed out that through this conference peace could be established in the Middle East by direct negotiations.

The Egyptian prime minister went on to say that the Middle East has been the scene of several encouraging developments since the PNC meetings in Algiers in November 1988. He said that the heroic Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, now in its 2d year, has also received encouragement and become stronger as a result of the PLO's courageous and pratical stance. He noted that Yasir 'Arafat outlined this stance in his historic speech to the UN General Assembly in Geneva, and in his subsequent statements.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi said that history will always show that military occupation and suppression are futile. He said: It is time for Israel to take an inevitable and courageous step. We hope that the Israeli people will in the end choose a negotiated peace and respond to the olive branch which the PLO has offered. He remarked that the Palestinian people's uprising has proved that Israel will err again if it believes that occupation can guarantee security. He noted that the Palestinian people have by their uprising defied all forms of military suppression and have extracted a recognition of their existence and their legitimate national rights.

Dr Sidqi said: At this moment, the Afhan people are reaping the fruits of their great and heroic struggle. The brave people in Afghanistan, after years of indescribable suffering, are on the verge of regaining their liberty. He described the Soviet forces' withdrawal from Afghanistan as a great and positive step in the right direction. He expressed hope that the situation in Afghanistan will be settled by enabling the Afghan people to choose their government freely and without any intervention. He also voiced hope that the Afghan refugees will return to their lands.

Dr Sidqi asserted that Egypt believes that Europe, through its strong ties with the United States and Israel, can play an important role in establishing pweace in the Middle East. He noted that the situation in this region poses a direct threat to European security and to international security and peace.

Dr Sidqi said that the situation in southern Africa remains serious. He added: We urge the international community to shoulder its responsibilities in order to end the hateful policy of apartheid. The prime minister affirmed that Egypt greatly appreciates and respects the Danish position on this matter.

Dr Sidqi referred to the agreement which has been concluded on Namibia and said it is a cause for great satisfaction for us and for the entire African continent. He said: We look forward to welcoming an independent Namibian state in the near future so that it will become a member of the OAU, which recently celebrated its silver jubilee with a record full of achievements.

Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter responded to Dr Sidqi's speech with an address in which he expressed his country's support for holding a UN-sponsored international conference to discuss peace in the Middle East. He asserted that real peace in the region can only be achieved by negotiations between the parties directly concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict, and not by repression or violence or by the imposition of a fait accompli.

In his speech, Schluter commended Egypt's distinctive role in promoting the peace process in the Middle East by its realistic and enlightened policy and by virtue of the effective and open channels of communication that it has with all the parties concerned with the peace process. He said that dealing with the Palestinian issue, which he described as the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, needs, as President Husni Mubarak recently stated, a degree of flexibility, logical thinking, and calculated action.

Schluter referred in his speech to the fact that the Egyptian and Danish viewpoints are identical with regard to the most important current issues on the international scene.

Poul Schluter referred to the development of Egyptian-Danish relations and said that Danish aid in the future will take the form of "grants." He noted that this will include the 11th development loan which has already been approved. The Danish prime minister remarked that his country's markets are open to Egyptian products.

He said Egypt's exports to the EC countries will be facilitated within the European program which is being prepared for 1992 under the name "the internal market." He affirmed that this market will be open not only to the EEC countries out also to trade partners from outside Europe.

Schluter described his current visit to Egypt as an opportunity to bolster economic relations between the two countries. He expressed his appreciation for the policies which the Egyptian Government has adopted to confront the problems facing the country. [passage omitted]

Received by Mubarak

NC1202115789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter at the presidential office this morning. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. The president hosted a working breakfast for the Danish prime minister, who started his current visit to Egypt last Wednesday.

Gives News Conference on Talks

NC1202172689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter has stated that the discussion during his approximately 1-hour meeting with President Husni Mubarak centered on the Middle East situation.

Schluter added that he agrees with President Mubarak's view that the Middle East has recently witnessed an important development in the peace process and that a noticeable driving force has surfaced.

Speaking during a news conference which he held at the conclusion of his visit to Egypt today, Schluter said that these important developments include the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, which he described as a historic development. He pointed out that his country welcomes this dialogue.

The Danish prime minister stressed that his country supports the convening of an international conference under the aegis of the United Nations and in the presence of the five permanent states of the Security Council and the parties concerned.

The Danish prime minister said that during his discussions with officials in Cairo he expressed his country's deep appreciation of Egypt's role in promoting the peace process in the Middle East.

The Danish official said he believed that Egypt will occupy a very important position in the next few months within the framework of its role to bring the parties concerned closer together before the international conference is convened. He referred to the positive developments in the region, particularly the PLO's recognition of the UN resolutions and its abandonment of terrorism.

Schluter cautioned that the current year could bear grave consequences if the international conference is not convened. He emphasized the importance of benefiting from the prevailing positive atmosphere, which serves the interests of all parties concerned.

The Danish prime minister said that the states which have ties with Israel should persuade it that the time is right for convening the international conference and that such a move will be in Israel's interest as well.

The Danish prime minister also reiterated his country's denunciation of Israel's conduct in the occupied territory.

Schluter emphasized the importance of cooperation between Egypt and Denmark. He said that a Danish businessmen's delegation to Egypt had discussed a number of projects and that the report he received on the results of these discussions confirmed that they were very successful.

Schluter added that his country continues to support the Egyptian cement industry, and he said he hoped that this will be an important field of cooperation between the two countries, particularly since Denmark will provide Egypt with modern technology for its cement industry.

Leaves Cairo

NC1302094689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0916 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter left Cairo for home this morning at the conclusion of an official visit to Egypt which lasted several days. During the visit he met with President Husni Mubarak and held intensive talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

The Danish prime minister was seen off at Cairo airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Refuses Chemical Plant Inspection

AU1302102789 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 13 Feb 89 p 17

[Unattributed report: "No Inspection"]

[Text] At the last minute Libyan head of state Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has withdrawn his offer to have three European scientists inspect the disputed chemical plant in Al-Rabitah.

Chemical expert Dieter Meissner from Hannover, the representative of the FRG "Natural Scientists' Initiative," was called out of the line at Frankfurt Airport right before his departure for Tripoli, because the Libyan authorities refused to grant the promised visa.

Meissner, who had been been promised a "complete inspection" at Al-Rabitah, assessed the thwarted visit as an admission that "there is something to be hidden" in the chemical factory. Tripoli has now promised to let a British scientific delegation visit, however, the earliest time will be in March.

Commentary on U.S. Attitude Toward PLO

LD1002152189 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 10 Feb 89

["International Affairs Editor Remarks on the Comments Made by U.S. State Department Spokesman"—JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nawwar [February] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The U.S. State Department spokesman, Charles Redman, has stressed that his government takes into consideration in a serious manner in its dialogue with the PLO the acusation against the PLO by the Zionists tht it is behind the guerrilla operation carried out recently against the Zionist occupation troops across South Lebanon.

Redman added that the U.S. ambassador in Tunisia has been informed to discuss this matter with the PLO.

Meanwhile, the French news agency has reported that the U.S. ambassador in Tunisia met the representative of the PLO there conveying to him the concern and protest of the U.S. Government on the infiltration by a Palestinian guerrilla group in occupied Palestine and carrying out a guerrilla operation against the occupying Zionists. This agency added that the U.S. ambassador regarded this operation as harmful to the U.S.-PLO dialogue.

JANA's international affairs editor, remarking on the above, says that the comments made by Redman reiterates openly that the struggle for a just cause is terrorism

in the U.S. conception. The U.S. Government demands yet again that the PLO drops the armed struggle, for the former sees the struggle for the Palestinian cause as an exercise of terrorism.

The editor points out that the sole interpretation of the U.S. official comments is demanding that the PLO and the Arabs should drop their legitimate struggle and just cause. According to these comments, the PLO should sell its arms in order to get the approval of the U.S. Government so as not to say that the PLO exercises terrorism.

The editor points out that holy struggle in the conception of the U.S. is terrorism. But, in connection with this conception, the Zionists are not terrorists who are practising the most horrid types of oppession surpassing what the Nazis did did during the Second World War.

The editor concludes that the Arabs, the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat should now realize that the struggle for their just cause will only change this viewpoint if the Arabs do away with the last piece of their arms to defend their cause.

Sudan

Omdurman Radio Reports Baker Cease-Fire Appeal

EA1202152089 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has received the appeal issued by Mr James Baker, the American secretary of state, which impressed on the Sudanese Government and the rebels in the south of Sudan the need for a cease-fire and an end to the war in the south. The appeal said that ending the war would help solve the economic problems in Sudan.

This appeal came within the framework of relations between Sudan and America, which is concerned about the democratic system in Sudan. The appeal referred to America's efforts to send relief to those affected in the war areas through the (?Red Cross) program.

Economy Minister Interviewed on Saudi Aid, Garang

JN1102164089 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 9 Feb 89 p 15

[By 'Uthman Sayyid Ahmad]

[Excerpts] His Excellency 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, Sudanese economy and foreign trade minister, praised the distinguished economic and trade relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Sudan. He said the Kingdom, led by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, and his highness the crown prince, spares no effort in helping Sudan and will extend all possible aid to it until it passes through its current circumstances.

In an exclusive statement to AL-YAWM, he added that the Kingdom always gives Sudan preferential treatment based on true brotherhood and assistance. Sudan, he said, greatly appreciates this and always remembers it with gratitude when discussing favors among brothers. [passage omitted]

Asked about reports that Sudan has dispensed with the U.S. aid of wheat and flour, the minister confirmed this and said: We are suffering much from importing wheat and flour. Therefore, we decided not to import wheat from non-Arab states and to concentrate on the Kingdom's wheat, while seriously seeking self-sufficiency in wheat during the next 2 years, especially since Sudan has plentiful water. [passage omitted]

Asked by AL-YAWM about his opinion of the peace agreement recently signed in Addis Ababa between the Democratic Unionist Party and rebel John Garang, the minister—a member of the Political Bureau of the ruling Sudanese Ummah Party and a member of the Constituent Assembly—said:

Once we review relations between rebels and legitimate governments, we always find that all the rebels want is for the governments to sit with them without conditions. Therefore, Sudan now faces increasing external pressures to yield to the rebels' conditions as if they are truly legitimate and the government is not.

He added that Sudan does not reject peace and stability, but seeks to attain them through guaranteed and just means. The recent agreement, however, contained conditions that no legitimate government could accept. One of these conditions was the abolition of Islamic laws, although we explained to the southern brothers that these laws would not be imposed on them, that the non-Muslim part of the south would receive federal treatment that would not harm them, and that the minority cannot be forced to observe them as application does not include them. Are the rebels then entitiled to ask that these laws be applied to the north, too?

We told them to let us sit at a constitutional conference to discuss and agree on everything. They replied by demanding the cancellation of these laws before such a conference is held. They then asked us to reject military agreements with the neighboring countries, although we have no such agreements or alliances, but mere ordinary technical cooperation protocols. This is so, while they are receiving military training in Ethiopia and Cuba and receiving military aid from several suspect foreign quarters. In contrast, our relations with other states are those of equals.

They tell us to cease fire while they strike at civilian planes and attack civilians, rendering them homeless and preventing their agriculture, production, and stability, he said. They also commit sexual assaults. They even took civilians' clothes and deported them naked, telling them: Go ask the northerners to dress you! His excellency the minister explained that 3 million southerners

have left their villages in southern Sudan and taken refuge in Khartoum and other northern Sudanese towns. Naturally, one of the tasks of the ruling authorities is to secure protection, food, and clothes for them and to reject all that harms the state's sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity.

He said: It is absolutely illogical to accept these conditions. The Latin American governments never allow rebels to harm the state's sovereignty. Nevertheless, the current Sudanese Government has presented 23 initiatives to the rebels led by John Garang. We have also requested some figures to be mediators, including General Obasanjo, former Nigerian president, and [former Tanzanian] President Nyerere. Hence, we confirmed we did not reject dialogue, but we reject the rebels' conditions because they harm the state's sovereignty and because they call for capitulation and for relinquishing our origins and roots, which we seek to maintain.

His excellency the minister wondered: What is common among Israel, the World Council of Churches, and the Western and Eastern states which are simultaneously involved in southern Sudan, given they have not gathered in one area since World World II?

He answered: It is one goal—namely, to create division and fragment the one country through the capitulation of the north to the rebels' wishes. He added that he should mention that Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens met with Garang and his aides near the area of Torit on the Sudanese-Ethiopian borders last month in order to prepare for further military operations against the Sudanese Army. The [Sudanese] Government learned about all this and the Constituent Assembly discussed it in one of its sessions, he added.

Moreover, the rebel leaders visit Tel Aviv regularly to kindle and explode the situation in southern Sudan, he said. Several parties provide all rebel needs for weapons, ammunition, capabilities, and military equipment from the world's most sophisticated production of war factories.

Concluding, he said: We advise the Arab world to tackle this issue with further seriousness and concern. Arabs should obtain the necessary up-to-date information so they will not be surprised some day by another southern Lebanon in southern Sudan. Should this occur, the Israeli enemy will be besieging Arabs from two very sensitive positions in Asia and Africa, he added.

Ethiopia-Based 'Workshop' Views Internal Problems

Constitutional Conference Urged

EA0902202089 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0400 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] The 4-day workshop held in Ambo town [Shewa Region] attended by representatives of the SPLM and scholars and professionals from various parts of the country, passed a resolution at the closing session of the workshop yesterday calling for a constitutional conference on Sudan to be convened. It should be recalled that at an earlier meeting in Addis Ababa, the leaders of the Democratic Unionist Party and the SPLM agreed to call a constitutional conference on Sudan to facilitate the solution of Sudan's internal problems.

The workshop, attended by the SPLM, progressive forces in Sudan, and representatives of various parties, Khartoum University, trade unions and professional associations, as well as notable personalities, resolved that all the country's peace-loving and democratic forces should unite and make every effort to put an immediate stop to the continuing civil war and bloodshed in the country and to bring about lasting peace, justice, and [word indistinct] in the country. The participants in the workshop, who numbered over 30, passed the resolution after discussing the reports on Sudan's problems presented by various scholars [words indistinct] topics.

DUP, SPLM To Meet

EA1002221089 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 10th Feb—A delegation from the Democratic Unionist Party, DUP, started today a visit to Ethiopia, during which it will meet the leaders of the SPLM, the daily "AL-KHARTOUM" reported today. The delegation, comprising deputy secretary general of the DUP, Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, and member of the party Politburo, Yusuf Ahmad Yusuf, will convey a message to SPLM leader, Colonel John Garang, a party source told the daily.

He explained that the message was a reply to a message the leader of the DUP, Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani, had earlier received from John Garang. The delegation, the paper quoted the source as saying, will inform the leadership of the SPLM on the latest developments in the country regarding the question of achieving peace in the south. The DUP had signed last November a peace agreement with SPLM.

'Statement on Peace' Issued

EA1202082889 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] [Announcer] I present the Ambo workshop statement on peace: The human cost of the war in our country and its tragic consequences make us staunchly committed to peace and particularly to the recent Sudanese peace initiative concluded between the Democratic Unionist Party and the SPLM/SPLA. This peace initiative to which we re-state our commitment was hailed by the Sudanese masses as a serious and concrete step in the activation and acceleration of the peace process.

As the present government has shunned the peace initiative and has increasingly shown its alienation from the peace aspirations of the masses, we, the participants in

the Ambo workshop on Sudan, call upon all the democratic and peace-loving forces in the country to unite in order to force the resignation of this government and bring about a government of national salvation, composed of all political forces committed to peace, including SPLM/SPLA. This government shall undertake the following immediate tasks:

1. Convene the national constitutional conference in order to bring about an end to the present war and achieve peace.

2. Address and solve the immediate problems relating to the living conditions of the Sudanese masses.

3. Rectify the present economic inadequacy and emancipate the national economy.

4. Democratize all the national organs of the mass media in order to serve all different groups and opinions.

5. Consolidate the independence of the judiciary and preserve the rule of law.

6. Consolidate the freedom of university education and scientific research.

7. Bring peace and tranquility to the western region of Darfur which is increasingly being torn apart by officially condoned tribal conflict and foreign intervention.

Here ends the statement.

Kuwait

Interior Minister Says 1983 Saboteurs Released

LD1102132889 Kuwait KUNA in English 1214 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 11 (KUNA)—Minister of Interior Shaykh Salim al-Sabah Saturday said two of the convicts in the 1983 sabotage crimes in Kuwait were released recently.

In a statement to a number of news reporters currently visiting Kuwait to cover celebrations of the 28th National Day anniversary, Shaykh Salim said the two convicts were set free after having finished their sentences in full.

He elaborated that such release had nothing to do with demands by radical organizations nor was it a result of ending the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner Al-Jabriya last April.

17 Prisoners Reported Freed

NC1102141789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah today said that 17 pro-Iranian prisoners, who were arrested after the bombings of the U.S. and French Embassies in Kuwait in 1983, have been released.

Mines Planted in Territorial Waters Pose Problem

LD1102103789 Kuwait KUNA in English 0844 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 11 (KUNA)—Assistant Executive Secretary of the Regional Organization for Protection of Marine Environment [ROPME] Dr. Badriyah al-'Awadi was Saturday quoted as saying that mine experts are due to hold a meeting here Feb. 27-28.

The Kuwaiti daily AL-WATAN quoted her as saying that cleaning of Gulf waters from mines depends on the signing of a peace agreement between Iraq and Iran.

She said international water lanes in the Gulf were clean of mines thanks to the efforts of the super powers "but the danger lies in the presence of some mines planted by the belligerents in their territorial waters.

"The organization has not yet received maps locating those mines or their numbers. This could endanger navigation if they drifted to regional or international waters," she added.

About 500 ships were hit by mines during the eight-year Gulf war of which 25 capsized, according to ROPME's assistant executive secretary.

Clearing Hinges on Peace Treaty

JN1202170689 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 11 Feb 89 p 3

[By Muhammad Salim]

[Text] Dr Badriyah al-'Awadi, assistant executive secretary of the Regional Organization for Protection of the Marine Environment [ROPME], has said that clearing the Gulf of mines hinges on regional stability and on Iraq and Iran concluding a peace treaty. She pointed out that the international lanes in the Gulf are quite clear of marine mines due to surveys conducted there by major powers.

The risk, however, lies in mines that were placed in the territorial waters of the belligerents. ROPME has yet had no access to maps locating them or determining their number. There is a risk of these mines being swept along by currents and waves toward other spots in the Gulf and thus endangering navigation.

In an exclusive statement to AL-WATAN, Badriyah al-'Awadi said littoral states in the Gulf have been making preparations to purchase mine sweepers and to sign on firms to conduct a survey of their territorial waters to ensure they are free of mines that might have been carried along by currents or waves.

Asked about a recent report putting the number of mines in the Gulf at over 2,000, she said there are no accurate estimates concerning their location or number. Experts, however, say they may be concentrated in the north of the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

She said that from the outbreak of the Gulf war to the cease-fire, approximately 500 ships were hit. Twenty-five of these sank—23 of them along the Iranian coast. There are 64 vessels trapped in Shatt al-'Arab. These may not be extricated until stability and peace are reestablished.

Dr al-'Awadi denied that any of the sunken ships has a cargo of toxic chemicals with potentially noxious effects on marine ecology. She concluded her statement to AL-WATAN by saying: A meeting of technical experts to clear mines and other leftovers from the Gulf war is set for 27 and 28 February 1989 in Kuwait.

KUNA Analyzes Bush's Middle East Policy

LD1102134489 Kuwait KUNA in English 0930 GMT 11 Feb 89

["A KUNA Analysis" by Raphael Calis]

[Text] Washington, Feb 11 (KUNA)—Less than one month after taking over, the broad outlines of the Bush administration's approach and policies towards the Middle East are starting to emerge. But unfortunately they do not call for much optimism nor do they promise much hope.

It appears that the Middle East and its complex problems—headed by the Palestinian-Israeli conflict—is not taking a priority in the Bush administration's foreign policy agenda—at least not for the coming few months.

It looks that the Middle East region, despite its well-established potential for crises, is being put on the back-burner or at least relegated to an equal footing with other regions of the world rather than being given special status and treatment because of its potential harm to American and regional interests.

And the key new appointments related to the Middle East region within the administration—at the White House and the State Department—leave a lot to be desired from the Arab point of view.

The hope by Arab governments that the new Bush Administration will start its term in office with much more vigor and dynamism to capitalize on recent breakthroughs, especially the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, appears to be dimming, leaving fears that once again the U.S. is showing short-sightedness by leaving the door open for crises or political eruptions to drag the United States into the area once again.

The picture that emerges—in contrast to the hopes and aspirations that were originally pinned on the new President—is one which shows a pragmatic Bush administration that has no new ideas towards the Middle East and its problems and is afraid to delve into the area's complexities head-on so as not to rock the boat prematurely.

In fact, observers of the Washington scene have felt a big vacuum in the State Department's foreign policy apparatus since Bush took over on Jan. 20, caused partly by the delay in the transition appointments of some key Middle East positions, but also sparked off by Secretary of State Jim Baker's cautious and uninspiring grasp of foreign policy matters.

Administration officials, in recent interviews with KUNA, warned, however, against making such "premature and rash" judgements, saying that "a period of reassesment" does not necessarily mean either lack of vision or lack of intent to act.

"The Middle East is complex. There is a lot of built-in feelings and animosities. We simply want to sit back, reassess, see where we are heading, draw out some new strategies, install some new blood within our ranks, and then move cautiously to implement our plans. But do not expect either quick fixes or major breakthroughs. That is not how progress can be made in that part of the world," explained one senior State Department official involved in the region's affairs who asked to remain anonymous.

When administration officials speak about their desire "not to rock the boat" they are obviously referring to the usually warm and close relations with Israel, which have been rocked in recent months by two major developments.

The first is the decision in the last month of the Reagan administration to open a dialogue with the PLO and the second is the strong and unprecedented criticism of Israel that came in the State Department's human rights report, which clearly condemns the Israelis for abrogating the basic principles of human rights in their mistreatment of the Palestinians.

Both of these decisions have strained relations between Washington and Tel Aviv and have caused a serious split within Israel itself.

As a result, the new Secretary of State James Baker—no expert on the Middle East but reported to be a "quick learner" has opted for what some officials describe as a "cooling-off period" to allow Israel "to absorb the shock."

Arab diplomats here say that while the Arab countries are ready to give the new administration the benefit of the doubt and allow it to gather its forces and plan its strategy for the region, they warn that there is the danger that a long wait might once again give Israel the wrong signals while at the same time opening the way for radical forces within the Arab and Palestinian camps to foil some recent successes made.

Of particular concern to these Arab diplomats also has been the string of new appointments that have been made at the White House and the State Department in recent weeks.

All key posts related to the Middle East, with a few exceptions, have gone to officials who are either not experts on the Middle East—like Richard Haas at the National Security Council—or those who are known for their pro-Israeli sympathies and connections, the diplomats say.

The most worrying to Arab officials has been the appointment of Lawrence Eagleburger as deputy secretary of state. His close connections to former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and his strong ties to Israel is a well- established fact in Washington circles.

The diplomats fear that the lack of expertise of Secretary Baker in the complex issues of the Middle East will allow someone in Eagleburger's position to play a key role in the evolution of the administration's Middle East policy that is pegged solely on Israeli concerns.

The expected appointment of John Kelly, a former ambassador to Lebanon as assistant secretary of state for the Near East replacing the well-respected Arabist Richard Murphy, has also been a disappointment to Arab governments.

Other than his brief stint in Lebanon until September of 1988, Kelly had little or no experience in the Middle East. He is not an Arabist and is not considered a heavy weight within the State Department ranks though some of those who know him say he is a "quick learner."

Lebanese officials who had contact with Kelly while he was in Beirut say that he did not leave a good impression among Lebanese politicians who dealt with him, especially those in West Beirut.

At one time, Kelly is known to have clashed with Murphy and special envoy April Glaspie, both of whom advocated an internal settlement based on giving Syria a bigger key role in a solution of the Lebanese conflict. Kelly argued in favor of giving the Syrians a less influential role in Lebanese affairs.

"Your fear is that this key Middle East post has been relegated to a lower level of importance, thus leaving the door open for people like Eagleburger to play a more pivotal role," said one Arab diplomat.

Other Arab officials belittle the importance of Kelly's position within the eschelon of the State Department. One official noted sarcastically, "well, Murphy was an Arabist, an expert on the nuts and bolts of the Middle East, but he still failed in his repeated and incessant attempts to solve either the Lebanese or the Palestinian-Israeli quagmires."

Now that the key appointments have been completed American officials say that the next phase on the Middle East agenda will be the initial talks that President Bush and Secretary Baker will have with key leaders from the Middle East.

The first will be held in Tokyo, when Bush and Baker will meet with each of King Husayn of Jordan and President Husni Mubarak of Egypt during the funeral ceremonies of the late Emperor of Japan Hirohito.

Then, towards the middle of March, Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will make his first visit to Washington, carrying with him what officials believe will be the broad outlines of a new Israeli peace initiative.

But officials have already poured cold water on these proposals and they appear skeptical of their ability to break the stalemate or be accepted by the Palestinians. The ideas are expected to be discussed with the hardline Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, who will come to Washington before Shamir.

The State Department considers these proposals simply a variation of the theme of the Camp David accord, (?which) Washington is convinced is dead and has already served its purpose in the region.

But whatever emerges from the Shamir talks will then be discussed with Mubarak and Husayn who are still expected to visit Washington in April and May.

The other disconcerting issue to Arab officials is the new Bush administration's lukewarm approach—so far, at least—to the U.S.-PLO dialogue.

Instead of capitalizing on the momentum left by the opening of the dialogue—already more than two months old—the new administration has failed to make arrangements for new formal sessions between the two sides to draw out a more detail and serious agenda or to move the talks to Washington.

Arab officials believe there are serious dangers that might result from this lukewarm American stand. They warn that this approach can result in major repercussions and developments in the region.

The first danger is that the mere appearance of lack of seriousness and interest by the new Bush administration in upgrading the dialogue will give the wrong signals to both Israel and the hardline Palestinian groups that have opposed the dialogue and the PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's openness to the United States.

But equally significant, the original euphoria that accompanied the opening of the dialogue in December in the occupied territories might be replaced by disappointment and frustration and might cause a further escalation in the Palestinian uprising or the intifada.

"The leaders of the intifada have been waiting for signals of seriousness and progress. If these do not come from Washington and soon, we might witness a major conflagration that might foil all the recent pacifying efforts in the occupied territories," said the Middle East expert here.

He concluded, "the recent history of the Middle East shows that putting conflicts, whether in the occupied territories or in Lebanon, on the back-burner will not make the problem go away. That is a lesson that should be taken into consideration by Bush and Baker who seem to be avoiding putting the Middle East on their list of priorities."

Soviet Oil Minister Dinkov Arrives for Talks

LD1202121489 Kuwait KUNA in English 1013 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 12 (KUNA)—Soviet Minister of the Oil Industry Vasily Dinkov arrived here Sunday from Baghdad, on a five-day visit aimed at broadening oil cooperation between Kuwait and Moscow.

Dinkov was greeted by Deputy Board Chairman of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) 'Abd al-Razza Mulla Husayn, Oil Undersecretary 'Abd al-Rahman Sultan and Deputy Managing Director for Oil Marketing at the KPC 'Abdullah al-Romi.

The Soviet minister told reporters upon arrival that his visit shoots for enhancing bilateral cooperation in the various oil fields.

He expressed hope that his talks with Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Athbi would yield positive results that serve both countries' interests.

Dinkov lauded the friendly ties between his country and Kuwait, and also Moscow's appreciation for Kuwait's economic and political independent policy.

Dinkov blessed efforts of oil producing countries, members and non-members of OPEC, aimed at restabilizing oil prices on the international market.

He said that his country "is fully prepared to cooperate with all OPEC member states in its endeavor aimed at stabilizing the international oil market."

The minister noted that the Soviet Union as an oil producing country and also self-sufficient does not mean that "we must stand with our hands tied behind our backs toward the world oil market."

He said "we're in touch with OPEC members to establish joint cooperation toward stabilizing the oil market."

Dinkov said that a Soviet representative will take part as an observer at a meeting for non-OPEC oil experts to be held Feb 21 in a place to be decided later.

The Soviet guest is due to confer with the Kuwaiti oil minister Monday at KPC headquarters to discuss means of boosting bilateral oil relations.

The Soviet delegation will make several visits to national oil installations, as it will get acquainted with the accomplishments of the Kuwait Petrochemicals Industries Company (KPIC), the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), the refinery of Ahmadi port and others.

Informed oil sources predicted that the two countries would sign an oil cooperation agreement during Dinkov's stay in the country.

During his visit to the Soviet Union in 1986, Shaykh 'Ali signed a protocol of economic cooperation, under which the two countries implement projects and exchange oil and its by-products.

In another visit to Moscow, the Kuwaiti oil minister last October signed an agreement, calling for the formation of a Kuwaiti-Soviet joint permenant committee for economic cooperation.

Al-Romi had also paid a visit to Moscow last month, during which the two countries agreed to supply oil to potential customers in the Middle East and Europe on behalf of each other.

Defense Minister Leaves for 3-Day Visit to Qatar

LD1202110789 Kuwait KUNA in English 0804 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 12 (KUNA)—Minister of Defense Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah left here Sunday morning heading for Qatar on a three-day official visit, in response to an invitation by Qatari Crown Prince and Defense Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah al-Thani.

Upon his departure Shaykh Nawwaf said in a statement to KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY that the visit aims at fostering bilateral and brotherly relations.

This is the first official visit to Qatar by Shaykh Nawwaf since he assumed his post as defense minister.

Decree Issued on Marine Satellite Use in Ports

LD1202114689 Kuwait KUNA in English 0835 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 12 (KUNA)—Kuwait issued a decree accepting the international agreement on using the International Marine Satellite (INMARSAT) ground station for ships within the territorial waters and ports.

The law, published in the official gazette Al-KUWAIT AL-YAWUM, was signed by Kuwait back in September of 1986.

Oman

Iran's Velayati Arrives, Met by 'Abdallah

LD1302054289 Tehran IRNA in English 0535 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived at the Omani capital of Muscat Sunday night on a short official visit on his way back from New York where he held talks with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Iran-Iraq peace negotiations.

Velayati and the accompanying delegation were welcomed at the Muscat airport by Omani Foreign Minister [title as received] Yusuf ibn al-Alawi 'Abdallah and other officials.

During his stay in Muscat, Velayati will hold talks with high-ranking Omani officials on bilateral relations, key regional and international issues.

Libyan Armed Forces Chief Yunis Arrives on Visit

JN1102211889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1930 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Muscat, 11 Feb (WAKH)—Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis, Libyan Revolution Command Council member and commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, arrived in Muscat today at the head of an official delegation on an official visit of several days to the Sultanate of Oman.

Upon arrival, Col Yunis said that he is carrying a message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id on Arab issues.

The Libyan official was welcomed at the airport by Omani Interior Minister Badr ibn Sa'ud ibn Harib.

Sultan Qabus Holds Talks With Libya's Jabir

LD1302091989 Tripoli JANA in English 0840 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nawwar [February] 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The sultan of Oman Qabus ibn Sa'id received yesterday Col. Abu Bakir Yunis Jabir. Earlier yesterday Col. Jabir arrived in Muscat on a visit to Oman.

USSR Trade Delegation Holds Cooperation Talks

JN1202152089 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] A session of official talks began at the Omani Chamber of Commerce and Industry today between the USSR trade delegation currently visiting the sultanate and members of the chamber's administration. The Omani side was headed by Maqbul ibn 'Ali Sultan, chairman of the chamber, and the USSR side by Namik Yakubov, chief of economic cooperation at the Middle East Department of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. The session was attended by the USSR ambassador to the sultanate and members of the USSR trade delegation.

At the outset of the meeting, the chairman of the chamber welcomed the visiting delegation, noting that the visit will be an important factor in trade and cooperation between the two friendly countries and will also enable the delegation to become closely acquainted with the Omani market and private sector businessmen.

Yakubov said the Soviet delegation will try to get closely acquainted with the economic atmosphere and the possibility of increasing trade between the sultanate and the USSR in the context of the good relations between the two countries. He also affirmed his country's readiness to establish joint commercial and industrial projects between the two countries in the future. He noted that the volume of trade between the USSR and all world nations reached $200 billion last year.

Saudi Arabia

Syrian Vice President Khaddam Arrives on Visit

LD1102115789 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1035 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Al-Zahran, 11 Feb (SPA)—Vice President of the Syrian Arab Republic, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, arrived in Zahran at noon today on a visit to the Kingdom. His excellency was welcomed at al-Zahran International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general. [passage omitted]

Meets With King 11 Feb

LD1102145589 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] In his office this afternoon The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques met with Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the Syrian vice president. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defence and aviation and inspector general; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; and the director of Mr Khaddam's cabinet, Dr Mustapha al-Haj 'Ali.

Rights Report 'Serious Change' in U.S. Policy

JN1102204689 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 10 Feb 89 p 3

[Editorial: "The Slow U.S. Change in the Middle East"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department's recent report, which accuses Israel of violating human rights in the occupied Arab territories, is a considerable, though uncustomary, change in the U.S. stand toward Israel. For the first time we hear a clear and explicit U.S. reprimand of Israel and its repressive practices against the Palestinians, although only a few weeks ago Washington blocked a Security Council call on Israel to stop its arbitrary repressive practices against the occupied territory Arabs and demanded that the call be addressed to both sides, Israel and the Palestinians, thus equating the criminal with the victim.

The U.S. report, which was released on Tuesday, is an advanced U.S. stand. It set matters right and called on the criminal to stop its crimes and oppression against the defenseless citizens. It also announced that the Zionist repression results in the fall of victims. This advanced U.S. stand, which came a short time after Washington's obstruction of a Security Council vote, is considered a serious change in U.S. policy. The Arabs should understand it and deal with it through awareness and realization of all the factors influencing it.

This new U.S. language toward the Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories, in addition to the dialogue which Washington began with the PLO, is a new trend in America's policy toward the Middle East, indicating that it is really determined to resolve the Palestine question.

This American change did not come on the spur of the moment. It was the result of accumulations deep down in the U.S. community about Israel's practices, exposed by the Palestinian intifada.

Since its occupation of Palestine, Israel has been praticing the policy of repression and expulsion against the Palestinians. However, the intifada riveted worldwide attention to this spot so that the world can see and hear what is happening to children, the elderly, and women in the occupied territories.

We the Arabs should deal with this serious change and clarify to the whole world the true nature of the Zionist practices. We should undertake an organized media campaign to explain the Israeli practices against infants and defenseless detainees. We should also organize trips for some Americans so they can see for themselves and on the spot the Zionist harshness and cruelty. These trips should be followed by media campaigns by television stations throughout the whole world.

The whole world is now at a crossroads, or, more precisely, it is taking a neutral stand, and we should not leave this world to Israel to make it as it was. We should work and struggle hard to transform this neutrality into an absolute support for the Arab nation and the Palestine question.

Israel will by all means try to contain and discredit this U.S. report as well as sever the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. Therefore, we must confront it if we want to resolve the Palestine question. We must do our best to acquaint the whole world with this report, in addition to facts at the scene about what is happening in the occupied territories. We should also strive to continue and enhance the Palestinian-American dialogue and intensify the Palestinian peace offensive, which has rendered Israel in complete isolation.

America is changing its Middle East policy slowly and we have to help it in this by providing the appropriate circumstances for this change in order to expedite it and resolve the Arab issue.

Belgian Foreign Minister Tindemans Praises Ties

LD1202115889 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] His Excellency Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans, has hailed the deep-seated relations existing between Saudi Arabia and Belgium, describing them as excellent. He stated that there was a conformity of views between the two countries regarding the resolution of major international political issues.

In an interview with the Saudi paper AL-JAZIRAH published today, the Belgian minister also expressed his country's admiration for the role of mediation and moderation played by the Kingdom at the Arab and Islamic levels. He then referred to the importance of the economic relations between the two countries as illustrated by the volume of intensive contacts at the official and private levels, saying that these relations were thoroughly assessed at the fifth session of the joint economic committee held in Brussels in February 1988.

Mr Tindemans also indicated that the cooperation agreement signed between the EEC and the member-states of the GCC on 15 January this year has opened a new era in relations between the two sides. He added that the joint committee representing these two sides is presently examining the best way to implement the second part of that agreement.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Chairs Committee Talks With Libya

JN0902173289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Brother Colonel President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, chaired a meeting today of the Joint YAR-Libyan Higher Committee formed from the councils of ministers in both fraternal countries.

At the beginning of the meeting the brother president welcomed brother 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee and the brother secretaries of the People's Committees on behalf of the leadership, government, and people of Yemen to their second home, the YAR, stressing the importance of their second visit to their country. He said the exchange of visits between the two fraternal countries is important for developing cooperation and promoting joint Arab action. He said these visits are also an advanced step toward Arab coordination and cooperation.

The brother president said what has been achieved so far in the economic, social, and political fields shows the sincerity of both countries'intentions and actions for the sake of their interests and those of the Arab nation.

The brother president said: We emphasize in the name of your brothers in the YAR that we will work toward promoting the joint higher committee and all cooperation and coordination efforts between us and the Jamahiriyah in all fields and under all circumstances. [passage omitted]

He said: We are following with great interest the advanced steps under way to achieve Arab unity. We support the establishment of a confederation among the

Arab Maghreb countries just as we supported the establishment of the GCC. We consider them a positive experiment that encourages the establishment of similar blocs.

The president indicated that there are arrangements to establish a quadripartite bloc comprising Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the YAR. He said this bloc is open to all Arab countries that wish to join it. He said the bloc is committed to the charter of the Arab League, reinforces the programs of the Arab League, and represents an advanced step toward achieving pan-Arab aspirations to reunite the Arab nation starting with economic integration.

The president added that the quadripartite bloc is not a political axis or alliance. This bloc is very different from what the biased, hostile international press is trying to circulate about it, he concluded. [passage omitted] Afterward, brother 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee addressed the president by saying: Allow me to speak as a member of the one organization. We consider ourselves as one organization sitting together to make decisions related to both countries. [passage omitted]

Al-Muntasir said: You know that since its establishment, the Jamahiriyah has aimed at achieving Arab unity. We believe that Arab unity is the guarantee for the Arab nation. There will be no sound Arab security without unity. [passage omitted]

Addresses Joint Session

LD1002152889 Tripoli JANA in English 1425 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Sanaa, Al-Nawwar [February] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr. 'Ali A. Salih, president of Yemen Arab Republic, attended yesterday the meeting of the third session of the Libyan Arab-Yemeni Supreme Committee comprising the General People's Committee in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Cabinet of sisterly North Yemen.

In his speech at this meeting, President Salih stressed the importance of this unionist meeting pointing out that it represented a positive experiment and a step forward bringing closer Arab unity.

He expressed the support of Yemen to the bringing about of the union of all Arab Maghreb countries reconfirming the positiveness of such a step to create similar unionist steps. He added that Sanaa unionist meetings assume great importance in promoting the cooperation between the two sisterly countries having also great significance in relation to the joint Arab action.

Libya's Shatwan Ends Visit, Leaves Sanaa

JN1202152889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Brother Dr Ahmad Fathi Shatwan, secretary of the General People's Committee for Industry in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, has left Sanaa following a visit to our country during which he met with a number of officials. He also visited some industrial establishments in our country.

On hand to see him off were brother Dr 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud, minister of economy, supply, and trade, and brother the acting secretary of the Libyan bureau in Sanaa.

Meanwhile, the minutes of meetings of cooperation between our country and the YAR in joint industries were signed at the Chamber of Industry today. They were signed by brothers the minister of economy, supply, and trade and the secretary of the General People's Committee for Industry in Libya.

Libyan Armed Forces Commander Yunis Arrives

JN1002132389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis, commander in chief of the Armed Forces in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, arrived in Sanaa this afternoon on a visit to our country lasting several days.

In a statement to SABA' news agency upon arrival, Brother Abu Bakr Yunis expressed his joy over visiting our country. He said he is carrying a message to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his brother, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Libyan Revolution, on strengthening bilateral relations and issues of interest to the Arab nation's unity. [passage omitted]

Delivers Message to Salih

JN1102205889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Brother leader and President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received a message from his brother, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September Revolution, which deals with developments in the Arab arena and issues of interest to our Arab nation, foremost of which are the developments on the Palestinian question in view of the escalation of the mammoth Palestinian popular revolution against the Zionist enemy authorities in the occupied Arab territories.

The message also deals with bolstering the Arab solidarity march and the practical steps to achieve the Arab nation's unity. Additionally, the message deals with relations between the two fraternal countries and peoples and the militant relations between the Yemeni and Libyan revolutions.

The message was delivered by Brother Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis, commander in chief of the Armed Forces in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, during his meeting today with the brother leader and president.

Foreign Minister Receives Libya's Hammudah
JN0902192389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee, today received brother 'Amran Hammudah, member of the Libyan People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison [title as heard]. They discussed bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries, means of promoting them, and developments in the Arab and international arenas.

The meeting was attended by (?'Abd al-Wahhab Jahhaf), our ambassador to the Jamahiriyah; and the charge d'affaires of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Sanaa.

Arab Monetary Fund Grants 5th Renewable Loan
JN1202083089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has signed Law No 6/1989, thus approving the signing of the fifth automatically renewable loan between the YAR and the Arab Monetary Fund. According to the loan, our country is granted a loan of 3,975,000 Arab dinars, equivalent to $15,500,000.

Saddam Husayn Attends General Command Talks

JN1202153289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1357 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Feb (INA)—Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husdayn, president of the Republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has participated in discussions held by the members of the Armed Forces General Command and a number of field commanders on ideas about the post-cease-fire stage.

In his discussions, President Saddam Husayn dealt with training and its importance in strengthening the Iraqi Armed Forces in planning, analytical, organizational, and educational areas as well as the relationship beteween superiors and subordinates, stressing the importance of spiritual and technical communication between superiors and subordinates. His excellency also said that if this factor does not continue or weakens, it will negatively reflect on the duties of all civilian or military organs.

The discussions were attended by 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information.

President Sends Envoy To Invite Salih to Summit

JN1302114889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1126 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Feb (INA)—RCC member Hasan 'Ali left Baghdad this afternoon as President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The Iraqi envoy will convey a written message from the president to Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih inviting him to attend the quadripartite summit meeting to be held in Baghdad at the end of this week.

'Aziz To Meet Perez de Cuellar, Velayati at UN

JN1002201489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] New York, 10 Feb (INA)—It was announced here tonight that a tripatriate meeting comprising UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will be held today at 2330 Baghdad time.

The date of the meeting was announced following a meeting between the UN secretary general and the Iranian foreign minister which dealt with future steps to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for a comprehensive settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict.

Following his meeting with Perez de Cuellar yesterday, Tariq 'Aziz declared that he expects the UN secretary general to propose a new inititative today to activate peace talks between Iraq and Iran.

Meets USSR, French Envoys

JN1002201089 Baghdad INA in English 1730 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] New York, Feb. 10, INA—Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met last night with U.N. Ambassador Pierre-Louis Blanc of France and Aleksandr M. Belonogov of the Soviet Union—both permanent members of the Security Council—to discuss the ongoing efforts to implement Security Council Resolution 598 demanding a negotiated settlement of all aspects of the Iran-Iraq conflict, as well as matters of bilateral interest.

Mr. 'Aziz had met earlier in the day with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and said afterward that he expected the secretary-general to come up with a new initiative today after a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The Iraqi foreign minister had met on Wednesday with the other three Security Council members—Britain, France and the United States.

Returns From New York 11 Feb

JN1102181889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and his delegation returned to Baghdad this evening following a 5-day visit to New York.

During the visit, Tariq 'Aziz held talks with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 which was issued on 20 July 1987.

Kuwaiti Delegation Signs Joint Trade Minutes

JN1102160889 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 11, INA—A joint minutes of trade was concluded here today by Iraq and Kuwait.

The minutes, signed by Muhammad Mahdi Salih, Iraqi trade minister, and Faysal 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Khalid, Kuwaiti minister of trade and industry, includes a long-term bilateral contract to export Iraqi barley to Kuwait, developing commercial cooperation through equivalent deals, and opening trade exhibitions in both countries.

The minutes also called for the necessity to encourage Kuwaiti investors to utilize the opportunities presented by the Arab investment law No. 46 in 1988.

Departs After 6-Day Visit

JN1102160689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Feb (INA)—His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, left Baghdad this afternoon following a 6-day visit to Iraq. His highness the heir apparent was accorded an official farewell ceremony led by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim.

'Izzat Ibrahim earlier accompanied his brother His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah in an official motorcade from the latter's residence to the VIP lounge at Saddam International Airport.

After a short rest, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah shook hands with those who came to see him off: Cabinet ministers, senior officials, the Arab ambassadors, and the Kuwaiti Embassy staff in Baghdad. Afterward, 'Izzat Ibarahim and his highness the heir apparent headed for the dais. The national anthems of Kuwait and Iraq were then played. Ibrahim and the Kuwaiti guest then reviewed the guards of honor, which represented various classes of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

Afterward, the Kuwaiti heir apparent shook hands with the high-ranking officials who came to see him off: Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; RCC members Sa'dun Shakir and Hasan 'Ali; a number of comrade members of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; and the Iraqi ambassador to Kuwait.

Earlier in the day, 'Izzat Ibrahim called on His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah at his place of residence in Baghdad, where the latter presented a gift to his highness the Kuwaiti heir apparent. The gift was a rifle made of weapons used by the martyrs of the glorious Al-Qadisiyah battle of Saddam. The rifle is coated with gold donated by female Iraqi donors. His Highness the Kuwaiti heir apparent presented a gift to RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim.

In a pre-departure statement to INA, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah said: It pleases me in my name and on behalf of my brothers the delegation members to voice thanks and appreciation to my brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, president of the fraternal Republic of Iraq; to RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim; to the brothers the RCC members and cabinet ministers; and to the fraternal Iraqi people for the care, good reception, and hospitality accorded to us all.

The Kuwaiti heir apparent added that the meetings and talks held with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and with 'Izzat Ibrahim and between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti sides were fruitful and useful. He went on to say that the honest desire to bring about a constructive and positive cooperation between Kuwait and Iraq in various spheres surfaced in these talks and meetings.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah voiced happiness over the victory scored by Iraq and said: I would like to express my congratulations to fraternal Iraq—president, leadership, government, and people—on the victories they have realized. I beseech Almighty God to allow fraternal Iraq to maintain the blessings of wellbeing and prosperity and to crown our efforts, in our capacities as officials of the two countries, to serve the causes, aspirations, and hopes of our Arab and Islamic nation with success.

The Kuwaiti heir apparent continued: We have adopted many positive resolutions that seek and aim to bring about further cooperation between the two fraternal peoples in various fields and spheres. I hope this cooperation will benefit the two fraternal peoples.

Ba'th, Sudanese Ummah Parties Sign Protocol

JN1002195289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Feb (INA)—The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP] and the Sudanese Ummah Party today signed a protocol of cooperation between the two parties.

The protocol was signed for the ASBP by Hasan 'Ali, member of the ASBP Regional Command, and for the Sudanese Ummah Paty by Dr 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, member of the Political Bureau and the party's secretary general.

In the cooperation protocol, the Sudanese Ummah Party expresses its pride regarding Iraq's stand and sacrifices in defending its land, unity, and the nation's dignity through its confrontation of the Iranian aggression for 8 years. The party asserts that this confrontation was a heroic defense of the Arab nation's eastern flank.

It calls on the international community to pressure Iran to implement all provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 598 according to the sequence of its operative clauses. The party also praises Iraq's acceptance of the international community's desire to achieve a just and honorable peace in the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

Also, in the protocol, the ASBP expresses its belief in Sudan's unity and condemns intervention in the interna! affairs of fraternal Sudan. The party also supports the call for national dialogue to resolve the south problem in a peaceful and democratic manner in order to preserve the unity and freedom of Sudanese territory.

The protocol states that out of both parties' desire to bolster relations of cooperation and friendship and to affirm their struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and racism, and out of their rejection of any intervention in the Arab nation's internal affairs by any covetous foreign

forces, the two parties agreed to consult with each other and to exchange views on the militant experience of both parties and the Arab and international situation.

The two parties affirm their support for the Palestinian people's struggle under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative; for their valiant uprising, represented in the revolution of the stones; and for their right to establish their independent state on their soil according to their choice.

The two parties agree that the only solution to the Lebanese crisis can be achieved by leaving the Lebanese to resolve their problems themselves without any foreign intervention by anyone and by evacuating all foreign troops from its territory.

The ceremony to sign the protocol was attended by the deputy chief and director of foreign relations of the ASBP.

Ummah Party Delegation Departs

JN1102103589 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 11, INA—Dr. 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, member of the Political Bureau of the Sudanese National Ummah Party and his delegation left here today concluding a five-day visit to Iraq.

Dr. Nur al-Da'im expressed in a statement to INA his appreciation for the national attitudes of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party and Iraq's support for the national issues and defending them.

The Sudanese delegation was seen off at the airport by member of the Regional Command of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party Mr. Hasan Ali.

Papers on Arab Lebanon Committee, Syria

JN1002125789 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 10, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad stressed that keenness on Lebanon's sovereignty, integrity of land and political entity dictate call for withdrawal of all foreign forces from its territories.

A daily commentary here today said real settlement of the Lebanese crisis should start with withdrawal of all foreign forces so that Lebanese parties could realize national reconciliation and agreement.

It added that excluding Syria from the membership of the 6-member Arab committee, seeking a settlement to the Lebanese crisis, was a correct and important step along the path of finding this settlement since the Syrian regime remains a major party in complicatng this crisis.

The daily criticized the request for coordination between the Lebanese and Syrian Governments on withdrawal of Syrian forces and said that the Arab committee must have adopted a decision providing for withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon or call for withdrawal of Syrian troops, the Iranian military presence in Lebanon and Zionist forces before anything.

AL-THAWRAH pointed out that the Syrian regime, since entering Lebanon in 1976, sabotaged this country in various fields and therefore, its presence has become a factor of partitioning and disintegration.

It added that what is required now is blocking the repetition of granting the Syrian regime an Arab cover for its military presence and subversive acts in Lebanon.

It concluded that continued deterioration of the situation in Lebanon and sufferings of the Lebanese people are the outcome of the previous experience, namely entry of Syrian troops into Lebanon under the cover of Arab deterrence.

Commenting on the same subject, AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad said the 6-member Arab committee should consider lifting custodianship from Lebanon and work for eliminating foreign intervention into its domestic affairs for finding a settlement to its political crisis.

The daily said the committee must not be duped by the Syrian regime's cunnings and manoeuvres and grants it a new Arab cover for imposing its custodianship on Lebanon. [sentence as received]

It said that a final solution to the Lebanese crisis is through preserving its legitimate unity and realizing a reasonable balanced political reform.

The daily further said that the Arab committee must discuss all that with the Lebanese parties to restore security and stability to Lebanon and that that could be achieved only through withdrawal of Syrian troops and the Iranian gangs that infiltrated into Lebanon through Syrian gates.

The daily pointed out that the Syrian regime would work with all possible means for keeping its supremacy and military presence in Lebanon until the last moment.

Shahal: PLO Qualified Party Under Conditions
TA1202185689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The Cabinet today discussed the latest retaliatory actions taken by Jewish residents of Samaria against Arab villagers. Reports of an indirect dialogue between Israel and the PLO were firmly denied. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] [Passage omitted] Economics and Planning Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said Yasir 'Arafat's comments that he is holding indirect contacts with Israeli Government officials was rejected at the weekly Cabinet session as propaganda with no legs to stand on. But Labor's Moshe Shahal did not rule out the PLO as a negotiating partner if the organization recognizes Israel's right to exist, renounces the use of terror, and accepts UN Resolutions 242 and 338 as a means to end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Shahal] I would certainly say that if the PLO will agree to all of those conditions, in my mind they are going to be qualified to be a party to a dialogue. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ben-Aharon Discusses Peace Plan Proposals
JN1302111489 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Shlomo Ganor in the Sunday newsreel: "The Week in 1 Hour"; interview in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer in Arabic] Work is currently under way in the Prime Ministry and Foreign Ministry to draft the new Israeli political proposals that will later form the Israeli peace plan. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will present the entire plan to U.S. President George Bush when they meet in Washington in early June. Prime Minister Shamir will also present part of this plan to French President Mitterrand when they meet in Paris next week.

The Israeli proposals are essentially based on the Camp David accords with some changes that were necessitated by developments in the region. Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, heads the team which is crystallizing these proposals. He is optimistic about the acceptance of this plan. He says: Logic, justice, and humanitarianism will sooner or later prevail over hostility and violence. Ben-Aharon has been interviewed by our correspondent Shlomo Ganor as follows:

[Ganor] What are the objectives of the plan that is being crystallized?

[Ben-Aharon] We are talking about a message whose bases should be acceptable and understandable to all the inhabitants in this part of the world. In other words, we want to talk to them frankly. They should be convinced that we are sincere and that we want to arrive at a network of relations that would be in their interest as well as ours.

Therefore, our Arab neighbors, especially those living with us here, should understand that pressuring Israel is unacceptable. We have fought three wars since the establishment of Israel against the Arab states and yet they have not been able to dictate their wish to us. And, we are talking about armies with vast military power. So the attempt to achieve the same objective through twisted means such as political and propaganda campaigns or stones and petrol bombs will be of no avail. We will resist such an attempt for 1 year and even several years.

I regret that more than 300 Palestinian Arabs and 11 Israelis were killed and several thousand Palestinian Arabs and 1,000 Israelis were wounded as a result of the incidents. But all this will not do. We must reach a dialogue that will lead to solving the problem. There are ways of reaching such a dialogue.

[Ganor] What are these ways Mr Ben-Aharon?

[Ben-Aharon, moving toward a map of Israel, including the West Bank and Gaza, and Jordan] First and foremost, let us look at the situation with the help of this map. If you look at the map, you will find that the borders [pointing to the border separating the East and West Banks of Jordan], as they existed then, were of no consequence. So we should wipe them from the map and also from the actual reality and the psychological thinking of the inhabitants in the holy land.

There is another aspect; namely, the humanitarian aspect, and there is also the day-to-day life aspect. What has happened during the past 20 years? The Arabs in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza are living with us every day. Some of them work in Tel Aviv, Netanya, and Haifa. There are also Jews who are living in the West Bank and Gaza. We are living together. We will not agree to a change in this situation.

Therefore, the settlement must not only take this into consideration, but also entrench the positive sides of this situation. In other words, we do not want to separate the Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza from their brothers in the East Bank. There must be free movement of Arabs from here [pointing to the West Bank] and there [pointing to the East Bank] to the Mediterranean for the sake of trade in Haifa and Ashdod.

Jews should also be allowed to move freely to those areas [pointing to the West Bank and Gaza] and even the East Bank within the context of a settlement. The borders should be canceled and coexistence should expand. This is the background to a peaceful settlement.

[Ganor] How can coexistence be guaranteed between the populations as the incidents in the areas have entered their 14th month?

[Ben-Aharon] Obviously, one of the first conditions, or perhaps the first condition, will be to stop the acts of violence. The river of blood separating the Arabs and Jews must disappear. Otherwise, it will not be possible to reach a settlement. Second, there must be a framework for direct negotiations. Forget all the talk about the international conference. These are all false means to achieve certain objectives. If we want to live together, we must talk with one another. In other words, there must be a delegation of Palestinian Arabs who live in the areas—the West Bank and Gaza—talking to representatives of the Israeli Government to reach a settlement. The members of the delegation must be persons from inside, not outside, these areas.

[Ganor] How can you guarantee representation for the inhabitants of the region?

[Ben-Aharon] There will be a need for elections at some stage to elect the representatives who will determine the future of our Arab neighbors. But I must immediately say that real representation means that every person should enjoy the right to vote and to nominate himself for election the way things are in Israel. If there are delays or threats preventing people from voting or nominating themselves, such elections will not be free or democratic.

[Ganor] At what stage will such elections take place?

[Ben-Aharon] In my opinion, the elections should be held after comprehending the network of relations I described earlier and putting the Arab inhabitants in charge of their own affairs in most fields. In other words, they would be running their affairs in health, education, agriculture, trade, and other fields through their leaders or elected representatives. It is only after establishing this framework that there will be a need for elections. We are certain that these elections will be free as was the case in the past.

[Ganor] What will be the PLO's role in this plan?

[Ben-Aharon] The PLO is not being considered as a partner. We do not fear negotiations with the PLO. We have held negotiations with enemies who have inflicted more losses within our ranks than the PLO. This is not a problem. We have nothing to discuss with the PLO, because we do not agree to the establishment of another Arab state—whether the state of Palestine or the state of the PLO—west of the Jordan River.

[Ganor] Mr Ben-Aharon, the problem of the refugees has continued as the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Have you crystallized ideas or plans to solve this humanitarian problem?

[Ben-Aharon] Undoubtedly, the problem of the refugees must occupy a central place in the settlement agenda. If we do not tackle this humanitarian problem by reaching out to the refugees and improving their living conditions, there will be no lasting settlement. This would be the worst thing that could happen to us. Why is that? First, we must provide housing to enable the refugee to live a respectable life. We must also provide a source of livelihood for him.

[Ganor] Is Israel prepared to devote its resources to solve this problem?

[Ben-Aharon] Israel alone cannot assume the financial burden of this task. This is obvious. This is why the prime minister has appealed for this in the past and he intends to repeat his appeal during his coming visit to Europe and the United States. He will appeal to wealthy nations to subscribe to an international fund. There is talk about a budget of about $2 billion to build houses for Arab refugees, without this having any connection with the political settlement.

[Ganor] What is Jordan's role in the plan you have described?

[Ben-Aharon] Jordan must be a partner in the settlement, both from the political and humanitarian viewpoint. There is no doubt about that. We are talking about one nation with one part living on the East Bank of the Jordan River and the other part living on the West Bank. It is not possible to separate these two parts. Therefore, Jordan and its rulers must be partners in the settlement to reach the framework of relations I described earlier on the map. This would allow coexistence, free movement of individuals and trade, and normal life among the three sides I mentioned—Jews, the Arabs in the West Bank, and the Arabs in the East Bank of Jordan.

[Ganor] Mr director general, one last question, how realistic and applicable is this plan?

[Ben-Aharon] Well, we will present our ideas and propose direct talks with our Arab neighbors, especially the Palestinian Arabs. The choice is theirs. If they want a settlement and to see an end to the suffering and violence, they will have to respond to our call. There is nothing that cannot be solved and overcome through free, real negotiations between Israel, or a delegation representing the Israeli Government and a delegation of the Arabs living here with us and the Arabs in the East Bank of Jordan.

[Ganor] Are you optimistic about the possibility of implementing this plan?

[Ben-Aharon] I believe that sooner or later logic, justice, and humanitarianism will overcome hostility and violence. We will reach peace with our Arab neighbors.

[Ganor] Mr Ben-Aharon, thank you.

[Ben-Aharon] You are most welcome.

Moscow Jewish Cultural Center Inaugurated
TA1302064589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] In Moscow, the Jewish cultural center named after actor Shlomo Mikhoels, who was murdered by Stalin, was inaugurated last night in an emotional ceremony attended by a large crowd. Our correspondent in Moscow reports that the center on Taganka Street was packed, and among the prominent people in the crowd were ambassadors from the West, including the United States and Britain, but no high-level Soviet representative. Hundreds remained in the street for lack of room.

Arye Levin, the head of our delegation in Moscow, read a message of greetings from Prime Minister Shamir. Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, said he has a promise that the center will be able to operate freely and expressed the hope that more centers will be set up in the USSR.

Author Elie Wiesel called on Mikhail Gorbachev to see to it that the memorial at Babi Yar also recalls the Jews who were massacred there. Former prisoner of Zion Yuliy Edelstein called on Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel.

[Tel Aviv THE NATION in English in an unattributed report on page 1 notes that "a two-man delegation from the Soviet Union will arrive in Israel at the end of the month to participate in an international symposium sponsored by the International Center for Peace in the Middle East. The visit by Radomir Bagdanova [name as published], vice president of the Soviet Peace Committee, an influential organization involved in Soviet foreign policy, and Andrey Shomichin [name as published], head of the Soviet Peace Committee's Middle East Department, represents the highest ranking Soviet delegation in Israel since before the 1967 war."]

Red Cross Offering Prisoner Exchange Mediation
TA1002183089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] A Shi'ite cleric in southern Lebanon says that the International Red Cross [IRC] has offered its services as a mediator in the release of the Israeli navigator held captive by Amal in exchange for Lebanese prisoners held by Israel and the South Lebanese Army. The navigator, Ron Adar, was captured when his aircraft was downed approximately 2 and ½ years ago. The reports of possible IRC mediation were made in Tyre by the local mufti, 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan.

UN Human Rights Report Alleges Use of Torture
TA1002181889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Another report, this time from the United Nations, accuses Israel of human rights infringements in the territories, especially the use of torture. The report, which was compiled in anticipation of the convening of the UN Commission on Human Rights, states that torture is in use in 38 countries in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, South America, and Africa.

In reaction to the report's findings, Israel told the commission that it has a responsibility to defend civilians against violence even if it is compelled to use force. Israel adds in its response that complaints on excessive use of force were examined and, when found to be true, led to the punishment of the culprits.

It has been learned that the UN report also accuses France, the United Kingdom, and Spain of excessive use of force against prisoners, especially political prisoners and underground activists.

Ramallah Human Rights Body Welcomes U.S. Report
TA1002183389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] The Al-Haq association, a human rights organization based in Ramallah, has called for immediate effective action to protect the Palestinian population in the territories against the kind of acts described in the U.S. State Department report. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an announcement issued by the association welcomes the U.S. position as what it termed a more balanced position toward the Palestinians. At the same time, the association maintains that the report overlooks some facts, such as the situation in prisons and detention camps.

Shomron Doubts Participation in Elections
TA1002152489 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 10 Feb 89 p 3

[Report from Washington by Yo'el Esteron]

[Text] Speaking at a news conference in Washington yesterday, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron said that the inhabitants of the territories would not participate in elections because "they fear that a split with the PLO would weaken their bargaining power. At present the PLO will not permit elections, and anybody agreeing to elections would be taking a risk." Shomron's assessment conflicts with one of the most important elements of the new Israeli initiative.

Shomron said that the PLO endorses terror operations in Israel and the territories, but tries to conceal its fingerprints. Citing the infiltration attempt from Lebanon earlier this week, Shomron said he did not know whether it had been encouraged by 'Arafat or was the result of the latter losing control over his men.

Referring to the Schifter report, the chief of staff said it was "one-sided and contained many inaccuracies," including the number of wounded Palestinians, which the report put at 20,000. According to him, the situation in the territories as reflected in the U.S. media was exaggerated.

Shomron came out in defense of the use of plastic bullets, saying that in the 6 months they had been in use the number of fatalities had decreased by one third compared to the previous 6 months. The chief of staff pointed out that in his talks in Washington he had encountered deep understanding and friendship and had been surprised by the few number of questions addressed to him concerning the Schifter report.

He disclosed that the Syrians have acquired Mig-29's, Sukhoi-24's, and surface-to-surface missiles outfitted with chemical warheads. Talking about the dangers entailed in Iraq's joining the circle of extremist countries, Shomron noted that its 55 ground divisions exceeded those of the United States and NATO put together. The Iraqi Air Force has 750 jet fighters and is the largest in the region, Gen Shomron added.

Defense Sources Expect Fatah Attacks To Continue

TA1002140689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Feb 89 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Text] One of the conclusions the IDF drew from the composition of the terrorist squad killed in the north at the beginning of the week and the communiques issued by PLO spokesmen immediately afterward is that the terrorist organizations that are part of the PLO and are involved in 'Arafat's political initiatives will continue trying to perpetrate terrorist attacks against Israel in the near future.

According to the assessment of one military source, the fact that the PLO spokesman and 'Arafat himself came out fully in support of the latest terrorist squad, made up of members of George Habash's PFLP and Tal'at Ya'qub's men, calling it an incident resulting from a guerrilla operation conducted against military targets, leaves the ground open for other organizations, including Fatah, to perpetrate attacks from Lebanon.

The operation by the squad that was killed early Sunday morning was personally approved by Habash, but it is not known whether he coordinated it with 'Arafat personally. According to the PLO's spokesman, the squad—which was made up of three PFLP men, one member of Tal'at Ya'qub's organization, and a guide—was named after Wadi'a Haddad and Tal'at Ya'qub. The Tal'at Ya'qub man was wearing a T-shirt bearing the faces of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and, apparently, Che Guevara, and an inscription reading: "Operation named after the commander martyr Abu Jihad al-Wazir."

One of the squad members, a sergeant (he was posthumously promoted to major) 'Isam Wahd, was carrying a PFLP membership card issued on 1 January 1989 for 1 year. This card shows that these were not men who split from the organization in the wake of the latest PNC resolution of November 1988, or that the operation was some kind of local initiative meant to embarrass Habash and 'Arafat.

Despite the fact that Fatah has not staged any terrorist attacks against Israel since 19 November 1988, such a possibility is not totally ruled out at the moment.

The vague terms used by the PLO such as "terror," "guerrilla," "national struggle," and "popular struggle" ("intifadah") [uprising], give ample leeway to Fatah and other organizations involved in 'Arafat's initiatives to stage attacks against Israel. The timing, nature, and frequency of the operations will be determined by many factors, first and foremost, Washington's position as to whether this constitutes a violation of 'Arafat's promises.

53 Percent Favor Negotiations With PLO

TA1002143089 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Feb 89 p A1

[Public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute directed by Dr Mina Tzemah]

[Text] Some 53 percent of the public favor negotiations with the PLO on the condition that the latter fulfills its promises, recognizes Israel, and renounces terror. This figure is divided into 38 percent who believe the PLO has not yet fulfilled its promises and 15 percent who think this condition has been met and negotiations with the PLO can begin at once.

Some 42 percent of the public oppose negotiations with the PLO under any conditions whatsoever.

These findings emerge from a public opinion poll conducted from 1 to 6 February in personal interviews with 1,209 people, based on a representative sample of the Jewish population.

Note: The previous poll published in December 1988 showed similar results: 54 percent favored negotiations if the PLO fulfills its promises, and 44 percent objected to negotiations under any conditions whatsoever.

The question polled was: On the condition that it fulfills its promises, would you favor or oppose negotiations with the PLO?

The response: Oppose, under any conditions whatsoever—2 percent; favor, when it fulfills its promises—38 percent; in favor of negotiations now—15 percent.

Nabulus Area Commander on Decline in Incidents

TA1102095089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Colonel Sh., commander of the Nabulus region, says that over the past 6 weeks a substantial reduction has been noted in the number of daily incidents in the

town of Nabulus, its casbah, and adjacent villages. According to the commander, stone-throwing incidents in this period have decreased by about 70 to 80 percent. Col Sh. attributes this calm to several factors, including correct but unconventional work techniques by day and night; the residents' fatigue and economic condition; the determination shown in military activity; and the new methods, such as bringing stone throwers to summary trial and the use of plastic bullets.

In a talk with our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe, the Nabulus region commander added that a decline has also been noted in the number of participants in such incidents: 3 or 4, as compared to about 20 earlier on. Nevertheless, the commander says he has no doubt that another outbreak can occur if the IDF does not operate the way it is doing currently.

Our correspondent notes that the paratrooper battalion that has been serving in the Nabulus area for over 2 weeks has not yet had to resort to any firing to disperse a demonstration or to catch stone throwers.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

10 Detainees Injured in Riot

TA1002154589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Ten detainees were injured during a riot that broke out in the Qezi'ot detention facility last night. Our Arab department correspondent Hasan Abu Ziyad reports that last night at 2200 the prisoners began throwing objects at the guards. The guards responded with tear gas grenades, rubber bullets, and were even forced to fire live ammunition in the air. Eight detainees suffered from tear gas inhalation, one was injured by a rubber bullet, and another was wounded by an ordinary bullet.

Youth Injured in Tulkarm

TA1002184989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Two Qezi'ot inmates who were hospitalized at Soroka Medical Center in Beersheba for injuries sustained during a riot have been sent back to the lockup facility. Ten prisoners were injured in the riot, eight of whom received medical treatment locally. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the riot apparently took place against the backdrop of the incidents at Megiddo prison.

In Rafah, a 15-year-old youth was wounded today during the dispersal of a riot. A curfew was imposed on Tulkarm today to prevent disturbances.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1800 GMT on 10 February adds that "there were several attempts to disturb public order in East Jerusalem today. Police arrived on the scene and used tear gas to disperse demonstrators. A rock was also thrown at an Israeli bus on the Mount of Olives. The windshield was shattered, but there were no injuries. In another incident, police found a burning Molotov cocktail near the Rockefeller Museum. No one was hurt."]

Firebomb Thrown at Car

TA1002212189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] A firebomb was thrown at a car belonging to a resident of Kokhav Ya'ir in the northern part of the Sharon District within the Green Line approximately 30 minutes ago. The firebomb missed the car, smashed into fragments, and ignited on the side of the road. The security forces arrived at the scene after Knesset Member Mikha'el Eytan, who had been passing by, summoned help. It was discovered that nails had been strewn on the road and that a light pole had been smashed. Another firebomb was found at the side of the road, ready to be used. There is a road leading to Qalqilyah from the scene of the incident.

2 Firebombs Thrown

TA1102184089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Two Molotov cocktails were thrown this evening inside a military base near Neve Ya'aqov in northern Jerusalem. A fire that broke out near the base's fence was put out immediately.

The residents of Al-Shu'fat refugee camp in northern Jerusalem tonight blocked the road crossing the camp and stoned the police unit that arrived on the site. One resident was detained.

Firebombs Thrown at Bus

TA1202073989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Last night, two firebombs were thrown at an Egged bus when it passed Tel Yeriho near Jericho on its way to Jerusalem. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the firebombs hit the bus's windshield and its side, but that no damage was caused, as the bus was reinforced. IDF soldiers accompanying the bus opened fire at the perpetrators and caught two suspects. Security forces continued searches for the assailants during the night.

Curfews were lifted from all Gaza Strip refugee camps this morning.

Settlers Seize Mayor's Office

TA1202083589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Settlers, mainly from Alfe Menashe and other Samaria settlements, took over the Qalqilyah mayor's office some 30 minutes ago. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that they are demanding a meeting with the military commander of the area to discuss the security

situation. They also said that this is how they are expressing their protest to the mayor of Qalqilyah over the fact that murderous squads from his city are bothering Jewish settlements on both sides of the Green Line. [passage omitted]

The curfew imposed on Tulkarm Friday to prevent disturbances was lifted early this morning. [passage omitted]

Settlers Leave Mayor's Office

TA1202113589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The residents of Alfe Menashe and other Jewish settlements who came to the Qalqilyah mayor's office this morning have accepted the army's request and agreed to leave of their own free will. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the settlers demanded an audience with Qalqilyah Mayor 'Abd al-Raham Abu Sunayna to discuss the security situation. [passage omitted]

The mayor summoned city notables to discuss the matter with the settlers, but a Civil Administration officer who arrived there declared the meeting illegal and ordered the Arab officials out of the conference room.

Our correspondent adds that Qalqilyah was declared a closed military zone. The security forces allowed the settlers to enter the city in their vehicles to take their representatives from the city hall.

Our correspondent reported a short while ago that 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, agreed to meet Knesset members and settler leaders. The meeting will take place in Alfe Menashe.

Schools Open; Commerce Normal

TA1202182989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Only a few disturbances occurred today in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. During a demonstration in Rafah, an Arab resident was injured by IDF gunfire and transferred to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that schools were open and commerce was conducted as normal.

Firebombs in Jerusalem 12 Feb

TA1302060589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] In East Jerusalem last night, a firebomb was hurled at the home of an Arab policeman. The firebomb exploded, but no one was hurt. Following the incident, police carried out a search of the area.

A car traveling on the coastal road was damaged when a stone was thrown at it. The driver was not hurt.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 13 February on page 1 in a report by Joel Greenberg adds: "Passengers of an Arab bus said a petrol bomb was hurled yesterday at the vehicle near Jerusalem's Talpiyot neighbourhood, the third such attack reported by Palestinians in the past month. A police spokesman said no report of such an attack had been received."]

2 Rafah Youths Shot by IDF

TA1302114189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Two youths who stoned soldiers in Rafah were shot and wounded by IDF gunfire. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that one of the casualties was taken to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon and the other to Tel Hashomer Hospital.

There were several incidents of unrest in East Jerusalem. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that stones were hurled a short time ago at a Border Police force guarding Minister Ari'el Sharon's house in the Old City's Muslim Quarter, but did not cause either casualties or damage.

A No 26 bus was stoned on the Shu'fat road north of Jerusalem. There were no casualties, but one of the windows was smashed. Stones were also thrown at a No 23 bus traveling in the eastern part of the town, causing neither casualties nor damage. Two schoolgirls were detained.

Border policemen were stoned in the village of Silwan at the foothills of the Wailing Wall, but nobody was hurt. A Border Police patrol in Sultan Sulayman Street in East Jerusalem was also stoned. Nobody was hurt here, either, and one suspect was detained.

Al-Rifa'i Receives U.S. Press Society Delegation

JN1202124689 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] The Prime Minister Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i today discussed Middle East developments with a visiting delegation of the American National Press Society now on a Middle East tour. The prime minister voiced Jordan's backing of current endeavors to bring peace to the Middle East through a UN-sponsored international conference involving all parties to the conflict.

Mr al-Rifa'i also underlined the role the American society can play in explaining to the American and international opinion the importance of achieving peace in the Middle East. Such a role, he said, would help end Israel's repressive and inhuman practices against the Palestinian people who had expressed their rejection of occupation and commitment to their right to self-determination.

King Husayn Briefs Delegation

JN1202191689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Amman—During his reception of the American national press delegation at the Royal Court this afternoon, His Majesty King Husayn expressed optimism about the climate of international detente and the positive developments that led to a reduction of world tension and a solution to a number of regional conflicts that had long remained volatile.

His majesty expressed hope that the climate brought about by these developments will reflect positively on the Middle East issue and lead to the achievement of a just peaceful settlement for it.

His majesty added: This region is of extreme importance not only to its people but to the whole world, in view of its location and abundant energy resources and their association with the world economy and international stability.

His majesty said that resolving the Middle East problem does not require putting forward new initiatives. All that is wanted, he added, is Israel's acceptance of world unaminity on the convening of the international peace conference and its response to the PLO's positive stand.

His majesty explained to the delegation, currently visiting Jordan within a tour of the region, the dimensions of the Jordanian stand, represented in the need to convene an international peace conference, with the attendence of the five Security Council permanent member states, to reach a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East issue, based on Security Council Resolutions No 242 and 338, and a solution to all aspects of the Palestine question.

The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty's political adviser, and his majesty's special adviser.

Senators' Remarks on Aid to Israel Reported

JN1302104089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] THE NEW YORK TIMES cites two senior U.S. senators as saying that Congress may curtail U.S. aid to Israel if it continues its repressive policy against the Palestinian citizens in the occupied Arab territories.

The two Democratic Party senators added that Congress does not wish to cut off aid to Israel this year, but Israel should expect a future decrease in this aid if it continues its policy of repression against the Palestinian citizens.

AL-RA'Y Expresses 'Satisfaction' Over Report

JN0802102089 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Feb 89 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "U.S. Condemnation of the Israeli Practices"]

[Text] The annual report of the U.S. State Department has condemned Israel's practices in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It referred to several examples of these practices such as the killing of a number of peaceful Palestinians and a number of Palestinian prisoners by the Israeli occupation soldiers under mysterious circumstances.

This condemnation indicates that the U.S. Administration has begun to take a more objective view of what is taking place in the occupied territories. The practices mentioned in the report and which caused the condemnation, are actually examples of terrorism, although the report did not use this particular word.

However, we notice that the publication of the report comes at a time when Israel is urging the U.S. Administration to end its dialogue with the PLO, alleging that the PLO has not abandoned terrorism. In view of these facts, the report itself appears to be a suitable reply to the Israeli insistence.

Washington's reluctance to cover up Israel's crimes in the occupied territores and its condemnation of these crimes call for satisfaction. Although this U.S. stand is important, it does not seem to be exceeding the minimal level of positive action. Condemnation alone does not constitute sufficient deterrence. It should be coupled with another measure—getting the Israeli aggressors to abandon their terrorist practices.

Any step by Washington to reconsider its vetoes that enable Israel to escape international punishment will be strong deterrence against the Israeli authorities and will force them to abandon or at least reduce their crimes. Moreover, any U.S. move to hold the international conference as soon as possible will convince the Israeli aggressors of the futility of their terrorist practices in the occupied territories. Undoubtedly, such a move will be a strong measure to add to the U.S. condemnation and, consequently, will deter Israel.

Washington has an opportunity to make such a move. This opportunity is the EC foreign ministers' forthcoming conference in Madrid on 14 February to discuss ways to hasten plans to hold the international conference. Any U.S. Administration reponse to the European effort in this direction will be an essential factor for getting Israel to reconsider its calculations and to respond to the international will calling for a just, comprehensive, and lasting settlement of the Palestine question—a settlement which is an indispensable basis for true peace in the region.

Soviet Foreign Minister To Arrive in Amman 19 Feb

JN1302103789 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Feb 89 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y has learned that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will arrive in Amman on Sunday within the framework of his Middle East tour.

Reportage on Joint Committee Meetings With Syria

Talks Resume 9 Feb

JN0902214589 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Amman—The meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee were resumed at the Prime Ministry this evening under the co-chairmanship of the prime ministers of the two countries.

The committee continued at this session to discuss the topics on its agenda, including issues pertaining to contributions to the capital of joint companies involving the two countries. The two sides agreed to pay these contributions. It was also agreed to supply the Syrian Arab Republic with Jordanian medicines and to enhance the cooperation between the Royal Jordanian and the Syrian Arab Airlines in the fields of aviation maintenance and the provision of spare parts.

The committee also reviewed the accomplishments in bilateral cooperation in the field of electricity. The two sides agreed to upgrade the electricity links between the two countries and to exchange expertise and information in this regard. It was also agreed to recognize the Jordanian driving licenses in Syrian territory and vice versa. The two sides decided to bolster bilateral cooperation in the field of contracting.

The final minutes of the committee meetings will be signed on the morning of 11 February, Saturday.

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i hosted a dinner banquet at the Al-Husayn Youth City this evening in honor of Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his delegation. The dinner banquet was attended by the president of the Senate, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the special adviser to his majesty the king, the chief chamberlain, a number of cabinet minister, and senior officials.

Economic Plan Discussed

JN1002125189 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The Arab economic integration plan and the possibility of Syria's participation in it alongside Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and the YAR was one of the topics discussed by Jordanian and Syrian officials during Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi's current visit to Amman.

Our radio has learned from an informed Jordanian source that Amman believes that Iraqi-Syrian differences and the absence of diplomatic relations between Damascus and Cairo should not be an obstacle to Syria's participation in this economic grouping, which is governed by market factors and is far removed from political axes and blocs. However, the same source added that Syria prefers to wait to join this integration, although it does not object to it.

According to the source, Jordan decided not to confirm the news about the economic integration plan when it was reported by informed sources in Amman in August 1988 out of its desire to avert the sensitivities of some Arab sides and to avoid being misunderstood or misinterpreted. Before declaring this plan, Amman preferred first to undertake intensive efforts to relax the Egyptian-Syrian atmosphere—efforts whose positive signs have begun to appear.

Amman is also continuing intensive efforts with Damascus and Baghdad to reach a minimum degree of understanding paving the way for positive economic cooperation between the two sides.

Al-Zu'bi, accompanied by Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, visited the Al-Wahdah Dam site on the Yarmuk River in northern Jordan today. An agreement was reached between Amman and Damascus in September 1987 to build this dam.

Qaddur Praises Relations

JN1002204489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Amman—Nasir Qaddur, Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs, has praised the brotherly relations between Jordan and Syria worked out by His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, noting the developments in these relations in all areas.

In an interview with PETRA-JNA, Qaddur said that cooperation between the two fraternal countries is moving quickly toward economic integration, pointing out that the higher Jordanian-Syrian joint committee is studying the spheres of cooperation between the two countries in the various areas of agriculture, electricity, transportation, communications, and anything pertaining to these areas in an attempt to reach an economic

integration, which we hope will cover the Arab homeland from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf. He added that there is a strong joint desire to promote and bolster joint cooperation between the two countries.

Qaddur also expressed satisfaction with the course of action in the Al-Wahdah Dam project, which is considered a great project and a clear effort to use the Al-Yarmuk waters for agriculture and irrigation. He said: We are looking forward to the day when this vital project, which will double the agricultural land and increase the area of the lands planted with irrigated crops, will be carried out. He added that the project will also generate electricity to be used for industry and illumination.

Syrian Premier Makes Statement

JN1102152889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi has called his talks in Jordan constructive and said they yielded major achievements worthy of our pride. What we are building implements instructions of His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, Al-Zu'bi added.

Speaking to PETRA-JNA before leaving Amman today at the end of an official visit to Jordan during which he chaired the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Syrian higher committee, Al-Zu'bi said the talks were conducted in an atmosphere imbued with a sense of the need to build on the progress made in the process of integration, which the two countries have resolved to make a solid foundation of the economic and social structures in the two countries and a springboard for larger pan-Arab social and economic integration.

The Syrian prime minister continued: We discussed all the topics on the agenda in a sincere, confident, and positive spirit. We have made a successful start to give substance to the principles of development and joint cooperation and uniformity to our conceptions as well as to forge practical steps into a single melting pot of action and followup. We have undertaken an evaluation of our progress in order to decide on the best means to ensure the gradual buildup of integration. The one Arab people in the two brotherly countries may rest assured that their will finds full expression in all that the joint committee undertakes.

He said that thanks to the credibility that has marked our work, companies and projects will be set up in various fields of activity.

Al-Zu'bi added: Trade exchanges will have an initial ceiling of $200 million with a growth potential to meet the requirements of the joint corporations and use the resources of the two countries in the interest of the integration march. As we leave Amman, we are more confident that Syria and Jordan will reap benefits from the march on which they have embarked. The coming days, he added, will witness activity by companies and corporations. There will also be commercial activities with sound options promising considerable, good results for the two countries. [passage omitted]

TIMES Details Minutes

JN1202095089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Feb 89 pp 1, 2

[Excerpts] Amman (J.T.)—The Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee concluded its latest meeting here Saturday with the signing of minutes which spelled out agreement to boost cooperation in all fields.

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and his Syrian counterpart Mahmud al-Zu'bi signed the minutes in the presence of the Jordanian and Syrian delegations attending the meetings. Following the signing ceremony, Al-Zu'bi and the Syrian delegation left for home. [passage omitted]

The minutes of the joint committee meeting mainly tackled 13 points [as published], according to PETRA:

1. General cooperation: The two sides formed a subcommittee to oversee oil and mineral resources industries, and another to supervise the implementation of joint projects in agriculture and supply. They decided to call sub- committees for a meeting in two months' time to discuss their programme and report to the higher committee.

2. Joint companies: The two sides reviewed the work of joint companies and decided to convene a meeting of the general assembly of the land transport company and discuss ways to expand its fleet. They reviewed reports on the joint maritime company and its revenues and profits, and discussed ways for reducing burdens on the joint industry company.

The industry company is responsible for a carpet plant. The plant will retain foreign currency collected from its exports to finance the procurement of equipment and more efforts will be made by both countries to market its products in other markets. The two sides reviewed steps taken in the implementation of a pesticides project and decided to speed up measures on a feasbility study for the scheme.

3. Trade: The two sides decided to fix the ceiling of trade between the two countries in 1989 at $200 million and to allow their respective trade centres to sell up to $10 million worth of national products. The two sides decided to organise trade exhibitions to sell $5 million worth of products directly to the public and provide facilities for each other in trade deals. It was decided that a joint economic sub-committee should meet in Damascus in a month's time to discuss lists of products to be sold in either country.

4. Transport: The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to a joint transport and transit agreement signed in 1975 and the Syrian side agreed to a request by Jordan to charter Syrian planes to transport agricultural crops provided ample time in advance is given with the request.

5. Electricity: The two sides reviewed measures being taken to link the national grids and current cooperation in exchanges of information and expertise in electricity and in providing training to technicians and in cooperation in renewable energy.

6. Contracting: The two sides recommended that the concerned authorities launch cooperation in contracting and benefitting from manpower and technical potentials in both countries.

7. Agriculture: The two sides reviewed agricultural cooperation and decided to provide each other with expertise, potato seeds and fruit tree saplings. They also agreed to cooperate in combating desert locusts, and to entrust a joint committee to help launch agricultural integration and to help promote the marketing of fruits and vegetables produced in Syria and Jordan in foreign countries.

8. The Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO): The two sides agreed that JAMPCO will purchase the following from Syria during 1989: apples, apricots, cherries, pears, dried figs, raisins and canned fruit and vegetables as well as potato seeds, while Syria will study possibilities of importing Jordanian lemons, tomatoes and eggplants.

9. Royal Jordanian: The two sides agreed that the two national airlines hold a meeting to chart a plan for Syria to pay its dues to Royal Jordanian as soon as possible.

10. Pharmaceuticals: Syria and Jordan agreed to take measures to implement contracts related to trading in pharmaceuticals produced in either country.

11. Glass: The two sides agreed on measures for import/export operations concerning glass produced in either country.

Joint Talks Conclude

JN1102135089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Amman—The 3-day meetings of the joint Jordanian-Syrian higher committee concluded at the Prime Ministry this afternoon. Signing the meetings minutes for Jordan was Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and for Syria, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi.

Al-Rifa'i gave a speech expressing his delight at the committee's decisions, which he said must be credited to the brotherly and positive spirit that prevailed at the meetings. The decisions, added the prime minister, should help further the brotherly ties between the fraternal countries to give effect to the ambitions of His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

The committee covered its agenda, and the sides agreed to explore new horizons for common action and cooperation as well as for launching meaningful projects in all spheres to promote shared goals. The prime minister added: We will continue to make every effort on behalf of still more advanced, sincere, brotherly ties between the two countries.

In response, Al-Zu'bi praised His Majesty King Husayn's pan-Arab stands in the interests of Arab causes, saying he was happy to have met with his majesty. The Syrian prime minister said the meeting was noted for its frankness and clarity. He commended His Majesty King Husayn's pan-Arab spirit, which the king consistently seeks to nurture. Al-Zu'bi said his majesty also works to develop common Arab action.

Praising the committee's decisions, the Syrian prime minister said they speak for the depth of the relationship between the brotherly countries. The distinctivess of the Syrian-Jordanian relationship, said Al-Zu'bi, finds expression in a shared outlook on current events. Whatever good either country gains will surely extend to the other, Al-Zu'bi declared.

The Syrian prime minister said the committee's meetings should upgrade all-round bilateral cooperation in the interests of the common objective of Arab economic integration. Relations between Syria and Jordan are solid and progressing thanks to the instructions of His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, Al-Zu'bi added. He was confident these relations will develop still further.

Al-Zu'bi declared that we have to work in earnest to see to the realization of our countries' leaders. The Syrian prime minister said he was impressed by Jordan's development march in all areas and credited the wise, attentive leadership of His Majesty King Husayn. He expressed his gratitude for the warm hospitality shown him and his delegation.

Montazeri Reportedly Sends Envoy to Beirut

NC1202132089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Informed Shi'ite sources have disclosed to the Voice of Lebanon that Ayatollah Montazeri, leader of the hardliners in Iran, sent a personal envoy to Beirut recently. The envoy met with political and military figures from Hizballah and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards to review the current situation in the southern suburbs of Beirut and southern Lebanon. The envoy conveyed to them absolute support from Ayatollah Montazeri and high-ranking officials of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards on the financial and military levels.

The sources added it was agreed that Iranian diplomats will intervene to help Hizballah resume its propaganda and religious role in southern Lebanon by insisting that the Damascus agreement be implemented. This agreement provides for the resumption of this kind of Hizballah activity in the southern villages after it was halted over 1 year ago.

Moreover, Iranian diplomats will give military aid to Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah and the southern suburbs.

Agreement also was reached on sending some Hizballah members from Lebanon to Iran to enhance their military expertise and capability through training programs adopted by the Iranian special units, which are trained for quick intervention in case of any sudden incident. The Hizballah members will be divided into small groups not exceeding four or five members and will be trained in ambush warfare and how to provoke riots. [passage omitted]

Shams al-Din: 'No Solution in Sight' on Hostages

NC1102121889 Paris AFP in English 1211 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Beirut, Feb 11 (AFP)—A senior Shi'ite Moslem cleric, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, has ruled out an early release of foreign hostages held in Lebanon, despite a recent accord brokered by Syria and Iran.

"For the moment, there is no solution in sight for this problem," Shaykh Shams al-Din, acting head of the Supreme Islamic Council, said in an interview with AL-SHIRA' magazine published here Saturday.

Syria and Iran brokered an accord last month that brought a halt to fierce clashes between Lebanon's rival Shi'ite factions, the pro-Iranian Hizballah and the Syrian-backed Amal.

"The accord...does not concern the hostages problem at all, and it could even complicate the issue," the cleric told AL-SHIRA', the magazine which in November 1986 broke the story of secret U.S. arms sales to Iran.

"The world expected the hostages affair to be resolved after the end of the Iraq-Iran war" in August 1988, Shaykh Shams al-Din said, "but I said at the time, and I repeat now, that it does not change anything."

The Shi'ite cleric, condemning the practise of hostage-taking, called for "those who can help resolve this problem to do so."

Some 21 foreigners are missing in Lebanon, with many hostages believed to be in the hands of pro-Iranian Shi'ite extremists.

Qabalan Confirms Red Cross Mediation Offer

NC1102062289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan has stated that the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has contacted him and requested that the Israeli prisoner [navigator Ron Adar held by Amal] be released in exchange for the detainees in Al-Khiyam and Israel.

Shaykh Qabalan called on those holding the Israeli prisoner to contact the ICRC.

Tension Between Army, Lebanese Forces in East Groups Exchange Detainees

NC1102131489 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Excerpts] A state of extreme tension continues to exist in the eastern areas. The Lebanese Forces have set several conditions for the Army command, including a halt to all activities by the Army commandos and the military police. According to the Lebanese Forces command, certain excesses have been observed within the ranks of the Army commandos and the military police. The Lebanese Forces Command asked the Army Command to deal with the situation.

When Al-Yarzah [Lebanese Defense Ministry] initially rejected the Lebanese Forces' demands, the Lebanese Forces responded by deploying additional forces in the streets and declaring a state of alert which lasted until last night.

After it was discovered that the Lebanese Forces had kidnapped around 100 Army officers and troops, a series of contacts began. The Army, meanwhile, had detained only 10 Lebanese Forces personnel. [passage omitted]

Around midnight last night, the Lebanese Forces released 30 kidnapped Army personnel, including 6 officers but no commandos. Contacts between the two sides resumed this morning, as a result of which the second stage of the prisoner exchange was carried out at approximately 1230 today. The Army released the 10 Lebanese Forces personnel it had detained and, in

return, the Lebanese Forces freed the remaining 69 Army commandos and military police members, including a large number of officers. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a state of tension prevailed today in 'Uyun al-Siman where the Lebanese Forces are preparing to conduct live fire maneuvers in the Amhaz area. The Lebanese Forces have besieged the municipal playground area in Juniyah where the Army's helicopter base is located. [passage omitted]

According to security reports, four bodies were counted at Al-Hayik Hospital as a result of yesterday's clashes. [passage omitted]

55 Army Personnel Released

NC1202181389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] According to press reports, the Lebanese Forces have released 55 members of the Lebanese Army they kidnapped during clashes last Friday. The Lebanese Forces also returned some Army vehicles they had seized.

For its part, the Lebanese Army released four members of the Lebanese Forces who were detained during the clashes.

AFP has reported that the clashes which took place between pro-General Michel 'Awn forces and their rival for the control of the eastern part of the capital left six persons wounded, including four soldiers. AFP added that these clashes were the most serious between the two rival parties since 23 September 1988, when the military government was formed under Gen 'Awn.

The Army had detained four members of the Lebanese Forces, including a military official, accusing them of causing the clashes when they opened fire on two Lebanese Army vehicles, and the Lebanese Forces established roadblocks in the areas under their control and kidnapped 5 officers and 50 soldiers.

Army Kept From Heading East

NC1102194089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] A military force belonging to the command of Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib's Army today set up a roadblock ahead of the Syrian roadblock in Al-Madfun. The force manning the roadblock prevented Lebanese Army personnel from heading to the eastern area.

Army, Forces on Alert

NC1102204089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] The Lebanese Army and Lebanese Forces are still in a state of armed alert in the areas of 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Judaydat al-Matn, Nahr al-Mawt, Port Road, Rumyah, Sinn al-Fil, Jisr al-Basha, and Furn al-Shubbak [in East Beirut]. The Lebanese Forces have brought in military reinforcements. The Lebanese Army is deploying patrols and setting up roadblocks in Al-Kahhalah, Al-Yarzah, B'abda, al-Hadath, al-Hazimiyah, Jisr al-Baasha, and in some streets of Sin al-Fill, al-Mukallis, al-Mansuriyah, 'Ayn Sa'adah, Bayt Miri, Rumyah, and Brummanah, and at the military hospital and justice ministry.

Contacts are continuing to secure the release of military personnel, including 10 officers who were detained by the Lebanese forces yesterday.

Tension, Syrian Redeployment in Suburb

NC1202062389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] The security and political situation between the Lebanese Army and Lebanese Forces has exacerbated further despite the various reports on mediation efforts and contacts to alleviate the tension and curb the dispute. It has been reported that the Lebanese Forces have brought in reinforcements to certain areas while the Lebanese Army has erected roadblocks and instituted patrols.

Meanwhile, mediation efforts have been intensified to ensure the release of 40 Lebanese soldiers, including 10 officers, held by the Lebanese Forces.

In another development, the Syrian forces will begin redeploying in the southern suburb tomorrow in implementation of the provisions of the Syrian-Iranian-brokered agreement between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

Army Kept From East Beirut

NC1202182489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] According to military sources, Lebanese Army personnel have been prevented from crossing the roadblocks at Al-Madfun, Museum, Al-Matn, and other areas to enter the eastern areas. This measure was effective as of yesterday morning. Contacts were held on several levels and with more than one side involved, but there was no change made to this measure.

Amal, Hizballah Exchange Detainees 10 Feb

NC1002151689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] In implementation of Clause 2 of the peace agreement between the Amal movement and Hizballah, the two parties exchanged detainees at 1500 today. The Amal Movement released 17 Hizballah members and Hizballah freed 11 members of the Amal Movement. The exchange took place at the civil defense center in the town of Humin al-Tahta.

Meanwhile, scores of families returned to the towns of Jba' and 'Ayn Bu Siwar today to inspect their houses and property, in an atmosphere of confidence and satisfaction regarding the implementation of the peace agreement between Amal and Hizballah.

Further on Prisoner Exchange

LD1002200689 Tehran IRNA in English 1931 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Beirut, Feb. 10, IRNA—Hizballah and Amal exchanged their detainees in the third stage of their agreement this afternoon. 16 Hizballah and 14 Amal detaines were exchanged at this stage.

The two sides completed the second stage of the agreement by withdrawing from Jba', 'Ayn Bu Siwar and Jarju' villages, whose inhabitants returned after the pulling out of the two groups.

The rival groups agreed to cease clashes after labourous talks with the Iranian and Syrian officials which led to their truce.

Amal Chief Nabih Birri termed the agreement between Amal and Hizballah "A turning point in the history of the Lebanese Muslims," and promised to respect the accord, mediated through the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria.

"Amal-Hizballah accord is a gift on the first decade of the Islamic revolution, a gift indeed to the Lebanese Muslims from Iran and Syria," he told IRNA on Tuesday, adding that the agreement marks a definite end to clashes.

Amal, Hizballah Meet on Barracks, Hostage Issue

NC1102172789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] In its Syrian-sponsored meeting today, the joint Amal-Hizballah coordination committee discussed ways to implement the security plan for the southern suburb next Monday and assessed the measures which had been implemented in Iqlim al-Tuffah so far, as well as the problems which had been encountered there.

It has been learned that Hizballah refuses to terminate the role of its barracks [not further specified] in the southern suburb in implementing the security plan. The plan provides for the closure of party centers except for both sides' command posts and of five social and cultural centers. The plan gives the Syrian forces the right to carry out search and raid operations inside the suburb and organizes the work of both sides' gunmen on the contact lines with the eastern area. Hizballah links the termination of the role of its barracks in the suburb to the hostage issue.

Resistance Operations Reported in South 10 Feb

NC1002172289 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Excerpts] In the resisting South, resistance fighters attacked a position held by the occupation forces and their agents at Nab' al-Dardarah near Al-Khiyam this morning. The fighters clashed with a patrol consisting of enemy soldiers and their agents. Two agents were killed and a member of the Zionist intelligence service was wounded. A force made up of occupation soldiers and agents surrounded the scene of the operation and launched a major search for the resistance fighters.

Resistance fighters also detonated a mine as a military jeep belonging to Lahd's mil[illegible]a was passing on the Al-'Ayshiyah-Jist al-Khardali road. An agent was wounded and the jeep damaged. [passage omitted]

In another development, it has been reported that the town of Shab'a is still surrounded by vehicles and soldiers because the inhabitants continue to reject the demands of the occupation forces and their agents to establish a so-called civil administration and national guard. According to the reports, the town is suffering from fuel and food shortages.

Meanwhile, Zionist artillery bombarded the outskirts of 'Ayn al-Tinah and Birkat Jabbur in Western Al-Biqa'. Over 30 shells were used, and property was badly damaged. [passage omitted]

A 30-member terrorist squad of the agent militia has completed its training in the Zionist entity. It has been named the Special Squad, and its task is to carry out acts of sabotage against the citizens inside and outside the occupied border strip.

Amal Attacks Israeli Position in South 12 Feb

NC1302095989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] A group of the Lebanese Resistance Battalions-Amal attacked a position of the occupation soldiers in Al-Qantarah at 1830 yesterday. A 10-minute clash ensued between the attackers and the soldiers manning the position.

Meanwhile, the occupation forces raked Qabrikha for 1 hour. They also shelled the Wadi Hujayr area, where several shells fell on a post manned by UNIFIL Finnish soldiers, but no casualties were reported.

Islamic Jihad Attacks Lahd 'Mercenaries'

LD1002174989 Tehran IRNA in English 1713 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Beirut, Feb. 10, IRNA—Islamic Jihad combatants Thursday attacked Antoine Lahd's mercenaries and their airport at Jazzin on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

A Jihad statement said the operation code-named 'Vahdat' (Unity) was carried out also to coincide with the return of the Islamic mujahidin resistance to south Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Iran's charge d'affaires in Beirut Hoseyn Niknam exchanged views on the latest developments in Lebanon and on the Amal-Hizballah agreement in separate meetings with the vice-chairman of the Supreme Shia Assembly Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din and Sunni Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid.

Both the Lebanese religious figures hailed the Islamic republic's role and its efforts to resolve the problems of Muslims and the oppressed people of Lebanon.

Lahd Forces Vehicle Damaged in Explosion

NC1002123189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] National resistance fighters this morning detonated an explosive charge as an agents' mechanized patrol was passing on the 'Aynata-Saff al-Hawa' Road, in the central sector, damaging one armored vehicle.

8 People Killed by Sniper Fire Near West Beirut

NC1002073089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Excerpt] West Beirut leaders have expressed surprise at the sniper activity in the direction of West Beirut in the past 2 weeks. Security sources said tht the sniper fire had mainly been directed at neighborhoods adjacent to the contact lines, from the old commerical area to the southern suburb.

The sources said that the neighborhoods adjacent to the contact lines have been the target of sniper fire in the past 10 days. This has left more than eight people dead in Al-Shiyah, Al-Murayjah, and Zuqaq al-Balat. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Subhi Salih Forces Attack Syrian Positions

NC1002065289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] In a telephone contact with our radio, the Shaykh Subhi Salih's forces have claimed responsibility for a number of attacks against the Syrian occupation forces' positions in West Beirut last night.

A spokesman for the forces detailed these operations as folows: The position located in the area of the Phonecia, Holiday Inn, Saint George, Simca Station, and Jall al-Bahr barracks was attacked between 2130 and 2145. Yusuf 'Akman and Husayn Sabbagh of the Shaykh Subhi Salih's Forces were killed.

Occupation forces positions in the Swedish Embassy Building area, Al-Itwan Building near the Bristol Hotel, behind Al-Rawshah Fairs City, Al-Nahdah playground, and near Beirut Hospital were attacked between 2200 and 2210. A Syrian intelligence patrol was also attacked near the Continental Building.

A Syrian occupation position in the Soviet Embassy vicinity and another position near the Globe Bank and Lebanon's television Channel Seven Building were attacked between 2200 and 2215.

Attack on Syrian Post in Beirut Claimed

NC1102062689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] The Bayrut Martyrs Battalion announced at dawn today that it fired two rockets at a Syrian occupation army roadblock in the Spinneys area, near Mar Ilyas camp, wounding a number of soldiers and causing property damage.

Explosion in Beirut Reported; No Casualties

NC1202220389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] An explosive device connected to a 60-mm mortar shell went off at approximately 2115 tonight when a Syrian occupation forces patrol was passing in front of Mudawwar shops in Mar Ilyas Street in West Beirut. No casualties have been reported.

Voice of Hope Radio Reportedly 'Closed Down'

NC0902125089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] According to reports received from the occupied border strip, the agent militia's radio station called the Voice of Hope stopped broadcasting 5 days ago. Persons arriving yesterday from the so-called security strip area said that the station has been closed down and that Israeli technical units dismantled the transmitters in Al-Dardarah plain, between Marj 'Uyun and Al-Khiyam, and moved them to inside the Zionist state.

The Voice of Hope was established in 1972. In the past 3 years it has been the target of three attacks by resistance fighters, and in one of them the building housing the station was completely destroyed.

Al-Zu'bi Returns From Visit to Jordan 11 Feb

JN1102170889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his delegation returned to Damascus this afternoon following a 3-day visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in response to an invitation by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i.

EC Delegation Arrives, Begins 'Official Talks'

JN1202201689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Official talks began in Damascus this evening between the Syrian Arab side headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the EC's tripartite committee. The tripartite committee comprises Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez and his delegation, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and his delegation, and Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias and his delegation. [passage omitted]

The three-member European delegation arrived in Damascus this evening within the framework of a European mission on the Middle East conflict to establish peace in the region. [passage omitted]

In a press statement upon arrival at Damascus International Airport, Spanish Foreign Minister Francesco Fernandez-Ordonez explained that this visit is part of a tour he and the French and Greek foreign ministers are carrying out on behalf of the EC, which gives special attention to the Middle East conflict and the peace process.

He said that this visit is a fact-finding mission to collect information on the state of affairs in the region. He added: Our countries wish to assist in giving a momentum to the Middle East peace process through consultations and the exchange of views with the friends in Syria. He affirmed that Syria has a very important role in the region. He said: That's why it is imperative for us to become acquainted with the Syrian stand.

In reply to a question on the results of the European delegation's visits to Egypt and Jordan, the Spanish foreign minister said: We have had the opportunity to hold talks with our friends. I believe that we can push the peace process ahead, particularly since there are objective factors that contribute to pushing the peace process ahead.

In reply to questions posed by the press on the delegation's visit to Syria, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: We hope that the EC will play a more effective role in the region and that it will express its stands more explicitly, particularly with respect to the convocation of the international conference, the need for a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and guaranteeing the Palestinian Arab people's national rights.

Concludes 'Official Talks'

JN1302063889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Official talks between the Syrian side headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the EC's tripartite committee were concluded last night. The tripartite committee comprises Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez and his delegation, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and his delegation, and Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias and his delegation. The talks focused on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the horizons for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Meets Al-Asad, Khaddam

JN1302130689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1200 today the EC ministerial delegation comprising Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez as head of the delegation, and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias as members. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the ambassadors of France, Spain, Greece, and the EC representative in Damascus.

Earlier at 0930 today, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received the EC delegation comprising the Spanish foreign minister as chairman and the French and Greek foreign ministers as members. Discussion revolved around the committee's mission, the situation in the region, and the European move and its objectives.

Departs 13 Feb

JN1302161789 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Damascus, 13 Feb (SANA)—The tripartite EC delegation headed by Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez and comprising French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias left Damascus at 1445 today at the end of a 2-day visit to Syria.

The EC delegation was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the assistant foreign minister, the directors of the Foreign Ministry Western Europe and Protocol Departments, the ambassadors and charges d'affaires of EEC countries in Damascus, and the EEC representative.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Details Pakistan's Annexation Plan

LD1102191889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Speech by President Najibullah; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. For some time now we have been receiving up to date and accurate information on the unprecedented number of Pakistani military forces deployed along the border, especially along the border with Nangarhar Province. The composition of these units and companies and their unusual deployment at strategic points demonstrate that these forces have an offensive purpose. There is no doubt that they have been readied as part of an extensive plan for armed aggression aimed at capturing Jalalabad.

During a recent news conference in Shikarpur, Pakistan, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan openly unveiled the sinister plan and expansionist aims of that country's militarists. At the same time, he revealed the aims of the Pakistani Armed Forces deployment.

He overtly spelled out the Pakistani policy toward our country, a policy which had been carried out covertly up to now. His statements reflect Pakistan's desire to merge with Afghanistan under the cover of a confederation. In this connection, he expressed confidence that the armed Afghan opposition would show its gratitude to Pakistan for military, financial, and political assistance and would accept the Pakistani role in Afghanistan's future.

The meaning of "confederation" as used by the Pakistani president is the creation of a joint state between Pakistan and Afghanistan. This is the gratitude that Pakistan expects from the extremists. The pockets of a number of extremists are full enough because of the spilled blood of thousands of Afghans so why do they now want to express their gratitude by selling out their country? They sold out the country's people and now they want to sell out the country itself.

Everyone remembers that while the Soviet forces were stationed in our country defening cries were heard in various parts of the world, and especially in Pakistan, that the Soviet Union intended to annex Afghanistan. In order to foil the opposition's false propaganda and accusations, the Republic of Afghanistan and the PDPA took constant measures to prepare the ground for the Soviet withdrawal. You will observe that through these measures the Soviet forces have now left our country, so all Afghanistan's enemies' claims about the loss of our country's independence are no longer credible.

The Pakistani president's recent statements revealed all those things he had previously accused others of as his country's official policy. It is obvious that Ghulam Ishaq Khan, taking into account his conspiracies and deals with a number of leaders of the seven-party alliance—particularly the leaders of the extreme wing—and the close ties between the Pakistani Armed Forces and the Afghan opposition, has designed a plan to merge our dear country with Pakistan. Military and rectionary circles in Pakistan intend in this way to swallow our country and turn Afghanistan into a Pakistani province.

Everyone remembers that 4 months ago Gulbuddin Hikmatyar also spoke of the merger of Afghanistan with Pakistan under the cover of a confederation. This is a cold war policy, when attempts were made to draw our country into the chain of aggressive political-military regional pacts. Now this policy is reflected in the new form of a merger between Afghanistan and Pakistan. It appears that Pakistani military forces and its intelligence agency have conspired with a handful of traitors to the homeland to draw up a plan which will disregard the proud 5,000-year-old history of this land of brave and lion-hearted men.

Therefore, Pakistan is now trying to set up a so-called consultative council among the opposition organizations but under conditions akin to solitary confinement. They would meet under the strict control and surveillance of Pakistani military and intelligence personnel and be subjected to duress to form an Islamic Afghan government. This would be in keeping with Pakistan's aims and its determination to implement the joint Pakistani-Afghan government scheme.

Brave Afghans, independent Afghanistan has been an unconquerable trench of resistance in Asia against aggressive world conquerors and colonialists and it remains a thorn in the side of colonialism's heirs. This is why Pakistan is designing various conspiracies to weaken and disintegrate our country's unity and thereby cause the disappearance of an independent Afghanistan from the world political map.

Those who indulge in this type of fantasy certainly have not studied Afghanistan's history. This is a country of brave men and heroes who have punished all aggressors and forced them to regret their intentions. This is the birthplace of: Abu Muslim Khorasani, Tahir Foshanji, Pir Roshan, Mirwais Nika, Ahmad Shah Baba, Ghazi Muhammad Jan Khan Wardak, Wazir Muhammad Akbar Khan, Mirbacha Khan Kohdamani, Mir Masjidi Khan Kohestani, Sardar Muhammad 'Azim Beg, [word indistinct], Najib Aminullah Khan Logari, Ghazi Aminullah Khan, and 'Abdul Rahman Khan Luddin.

When these heroes were performing epic-making acts Pakistan did not even exist. It could even be said that I am older than Pakistan's history and political life. The country's current generation is the real and rightful heir of its patriotic and holy warrior forefather. They imbued the brave acts of their ancestors with their blood.

The spirit of freedom and independence will never die in Afghanistan. The 5,000 years of an honorable and proud existence have turned the Afghan nation into a shining example of steadfastness against aggression and various foreign conspiracies. The united and indivisible Afghan nation is determined to carry on in the tradition of its forefathers: Pashtuns, Tajiks, Hazaras, Uzbeks, Turkmens, Baluchi, Nurestani, Pasha-e, and other heroic Afghan ethnic groups!

The plan to merge Pakistan with Afghanistan is not a conspiracy aimed only at the PDPA and the current Afghan Government. Afghanistan's ancient enemies have confronted us all with another great test. The existence and future of Afghanistan as an independent political entity in the world is in question. Can you let the history of a land of free men die here forever? Can you allow your beloved country, which has lived freely and proudly for more than 50 centuries, to submit to a life of shame and oppression under the shadow of Pakistini domination and [word indistinct]? Never!

I am firmly confident and believe that all patriotic Afghans—regardless of their religion or ethnic group or which side of the war they are on—will identify with the pure souls of the freedom-seeking martyrs and in the name of a free and independent Afghanistan—with the help and assistance of almighty God—will participate in a sacred national jihad. They will participate in a united national front and fight with stones and wood against our country's ancient enemies and the handful of traitors attached to them.

Afghan emigrants, you who have lived in exile for a long time away from the climate and soil of your country: Do you realize that at this moment they have gathered in a military barracks in Rawalpindi—behind your backs but in your name—to make a treacherous deal on your country? Tear off the chains of captivity and exile which have shackled your hands and feet and stand up against the foreign and internal enemies of your country. Do not allow the Pakistani officers and extremist leaders to again take away in the name of jihad your beloved children to have them die on the battlefield against your Muslim brothers.

We are sure that all peace-loving forces in the region and world are fully aware of the danger that such adventurous plans will have on the region's peace and security and will not allow such plans to be implemented.

We are also sure that Afghanistan's international friends will not remain indifferent to such anti-Afghan conspiracies but will provide assistance to our people to foil them. While the Republic of Afghanistan strongly condemns the Pakistani military's sinister plans and conspiracies, it asks all compatriots to be fully alert and ready to defend the country's honor. Brave Afghans, let us come and shout together: Homeland or death!

Vice President Hatif Denied UK Entry Visa

LD0902214489 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2111 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] Britain has refused a visa to Afghanistan's Vice-President 'Abdul Rahim Hatif, who wanted to travel to London to give a TV interview.

The Foreign Office said tonight: "We have no substantial dealings with the Kabul regime, and do not grant visas to significant figures in the regime."

Britain shut its embassy in Kabul a week ago and flew the staff to Delhi because of the security risk as the Russians pulled out.

Britain has publicly expressed its opposition to the communist-backed regime in Kabul, and its charge d'affaires in Kabul, Mr Ian Mackley, said in Delhi that President Najibullah should leave Afghanistan with the Russians.

Mr Hatif was invited to London to give a live interview on Channel 4's The World This Week.

Najibullah Pardons 20 Iranian Prisoners

LD1102162189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] In accordance with a decree by Esteemed Afghan President Najibullah, those 20 Iranians who received various sentences from the Afghan courts over the last 10 years on charges of activities against Afghanistan's national security were pardoned. This was done to improve the good-neighborly relations between the two neighboring countries of Afghanistan and Iran; to express Afghanistan's goodwill for further understanding; and on the occasion of the Islamic Republic of Iran's 10th founding anniversary.

During a ceremony today, the head of Consulate Affairs of the Foreign Ministry handed over the pardoned prisoners to the Iranian charge d'affaires. On behalf of the Iranian Government, the charge d'affaires expressed his appreciation for this good deed by Afghanistan's leadership. He said he considered it useful for consolidating friendly relations between the two neighboring Muslim countries. He also wished for peace and security to be established in Afghanistan and for mutual and beneficial cooperation between Afghanistan and Iran to be expanded.

At their own request, two of the pardoned prisoners were handed over to the UN High Commission for Refugees in Afghanistan by a Foreign Ministry consular official.

Government Urges Rebel Commanders To Negotiate

LD1202235889 Kabul Television Service in Dari 2010 GMT 12 Feb 89

["Announcement" of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, issued in Kabul on 12 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, after a thorough and realistic study of the past and current situation in our homeland, decided to promote the policy of national reconciliation in order to put an end to the bloodshed and solve the problems among Afghans and have taken numerous and comprehensive measures to implement this policy.

This humane policy created favorable conditions for many opposition groups to join in the process of restoring peace and tranquility in the country. After the reconciliation policy was proclaimed, many of our compatriots, who were forced to flee their native country, returned home. However, for various reasons, the majority of the Afghan refugees and members of the opposition have not yet managed to return to a peaceful life. Talks and contacts with some representatives of large and small opposition detachments show that they support national reconciliation.

At the same time, according to their statements, they would join this process if Soviet troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan. The other side of the opposition refused to hold talks with us and continues the hostilities that lead to the extermination of our compatriots.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has done everything to promote the return of the Soviet troops, and presently all Afghan citizens are witnessing their withdrawal in conforming with the Geneva accords. In the past several days, a number of armed opposition commanders began talks with representatives of the authorities. They said that the absence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan made it possible for them to take part in a peaceful settlement and an end to fratricide as soon as possible.

They believe that the continuation of bloodshed will no longer be a jihad, but the extermination of Muslims by Muslims. The compatriots living abroad in refugee camps also believe that continuing the war will only lead to the extermination of their sons and brothers.

Some commanders of opposition groups continue to wait for instructions and resolutions to come from the Peshawar leaders who, together with the Pakistani authorities, claim the right to decide the destiny of our native land. However, practical developments show that all their resolutions adopted under the pressure of the Pakistani military cannot ensure a just solution of the Afghan problem. Those who are now in Rawalpindi under close supervision and patronage of the Pakistani military are in no better a position to represent the interests of commanders of the armed groups operating in Afghanistan.

We believe that all the problems connected with the destiny of the Afghan people must be resolved inside, rather than outside, Afghanistan. We urge all the commanders of armed opposition groups in the country to establish direct contacts with representatives of the authorities to find ways to put an end to the bloodshed. The state is ready to analyze all their viewpoints, proposals, and demands in an Islamic, Afghan, and fraternal spirit. Talk with them and reach a decision.

In line with previous statements, the Republic of Afghanistan announces that complete security will be guaranteed for all commanders and individuals connected with the armed opposition groups. All responsible authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan are instructed to seek and maintain practical means for holding talks with the armed opposition groups.

The state is ready to purchase their heavy weapons and ammunition in accordance with the previous decree from the armed opposition groups. [sentence as heard] For the opposition forces who accept the national reconciliation policy, the state will provide everything to ensure their participation in a coalition government. Employment in agriculture, transport, trade, etc. will also be provided. In line with the teachings of sacred Islam, the principles of national fraternity, and the known customs of the Afghan people, the Republic of Afghanistan categorically states that it will do everything possible to end the war and promote national reconciliation.

We ask the armed opposition groups not to allow the common home of the Afghans to be destroyed. Do not allow anyone to toy with the destiny of the Afghan nation, the destiny of the refugees and the opposition forces. The Republic of Afghanistan is confident that, with the return of the Soviet forces, all Afghans can and should be able to listen to each other and forget the past enmities and hostilities, to defend together their common sacred homeland against the conspiracies of the sworn enemies of the Afghan people. We hope that peace will be attained in Afghanistan.

Kabul Reiterates Amnesty Offer to Resistance

BK1302123589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1824 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 12 (AFP)—The Afghanistan Government on Sunday [12 February] repeated offers of an amnesty for Afghan resistance groups and reiterated demands to hold talks with resistance leaders.

In a dispatch by official Radio Kabul, monitored here, a comprehensive resettlement programme was proposed for those rebels who took advantage of the offer.

Diplomatic sources here say the latest proposal by the Soviet-backed regime of President Najibullah was aimed at taking advantage of differences among Iran and Pakistan-based Afghan resistance groups.

An Afghan mujahidin assembly, or shura, called to establish an interim government following the Soviet troop withdrawal, disbanded on Friday after only one hour when Iran-based Shi'ite rebel leaders refused to accept their alloted seat quota.

The Shi'ites, the minority community in Afghanistan, had been given a total of just 60 seats in the 526-member assembly held in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, while the seven Pakistan-based parties were allotted 60 each. The Iran-based leaders want 100 seats.

The assembly is expected to reconvene on Monday, the pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY said.

Muhammadi Replaces Mojadeddi as Shura Chairman

BK1102024489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Professor Sibghatullah Mojadeddi, chairman of the 7-party Afghan alliance, has thanked the people and Government of Pakistan for providing humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people at a critical juncture in the history of Afghanistan. He also thanked other Islamic and non-Islamic countries which whole-heartedly supported the Afghan struggle against foreign intervention.

Addressing the Afghan consultative council's inaugural session in Islamabad yesterday, he expressed the hope that the Iran-based mujahidin will soon attend the great session which provides the best opportunity to all Afghans to express their individual opinions on the future of Afghanistan. Professor Mojadeddi later handed over the shura chairmanship to Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi.

Mojadeddi Sees 'Conspiracy' Against Moderates

BK1202095089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0932 GMT 12 Feb 89

[By Gilles Bertin and Sami Zubeiri]

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Feb 12 (AFP)—A split between Iran- and Pakistan-based Afghan rebel groups over representation in a traditional council aimed at forming an interim government in Afghanistan threatened to cause new divisions Sunday.

Zabihullah Mojadeddi, head of the moderate Afghan National Liberation Front (ANLF), said here Sunday that there was a "conspiracy" against moderate members of the seven-party resistance alliance based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar.

He also threatened at a news conference to pull his party out of the Peshawar-based alliance if Iran-based rebel groups did not take part in the traditional assembly, known as a shura.

The assembly opened in Rawalpindi near here Friday, but was adjourned after just an hour due to disagreement over the number of seats allotted to the Iran-based resistance alliance.

Shura spokesman 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, a fundamentalist, said Saturday that the assembly would be reconvened in "one or two days" whether or not the Iran-based rebels, who boycotted the first session, decided to attend.

But Mr. Zabihullah Mojadeddi, son of 64-year old Peshawar alliance chairman Sibghatullah Mojadeddi, said he believed resumption of the shura would be delayed for at least a week to allow the rebels to resolve their differences. [passage omitted]

"There is a conspiracy going on against the moderate parties" and Mr. Sibghatullah Mojadeddi in particular, said Mr. Zabihullah Mojadeddi, who was expected to be named a deputy prime minister in the interim government.

Criticising fundamentalist parties for overruling an agreement his father had signed with Shi'ite groups based in Iran, Mr. Zabihullah Mojadeddi also charged them with attacking gatherings of rebel commanders of rival parties.

He said that a rally in Peshawar on Thursday supporting the return of former Afghan King Zahir Shah was broken up by fundamentalist elements.

"Our commanders invited for the shura are being insulted," he added.

He said the assembly would be incomplete without the participation of Iran-based rebels and his party would reconsider its participation if other Pakistan-based alliance leaders did not change their stand on the issue.

He did not rule out convening a "new shura" with the Iran-based rebels and two moderate Pakistan-based parties led by Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani and Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi. "The ANLF will take the issue very seriously," he said.

In other developments, the Iranian ambassador to Pakistan met here Saturday with leaders of the Pakistan-based alliance but failed to reach agreement on larger representation for Iran-based groups, informed sources said.

The Iranian ambassador warned that failure to provide Iran-backed groups with more assembly seats would cause problems for the resistance, something which observers said had been borne out by Mr. Zabihullah Mojadeddi's remarks.

Iran's IRNA news agency also reported that an Iranian delegation headed by Deputy Premier 'Ali Reza Moayeri left Teheran on Sunday for Islamabad for talks with Pakistani officials and Afghan rebel leaders.

The sources said that leaders of the Peshawar-based alliance had firmly rejected demands for more than 60 seats for the Shi'ite groups, which are asking for 100 seats as they said was agreed with Mr. Sibghatullah Mojadeddi.

Mr. Sayyaf said the alliance had offered to allot another 42 seats to Iran-based delegates, but these would be selected by Pakistan-based leaders.

The sources said the two Pakistan-based alliance leaders the most opposed to increased Shi'ite representation were Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, 34, head of the fundamentalist faction of the Hezb-e Eslami, and Yunis Khalis, 69, leader of a moderate Hezb-e Eslami group.

The Pakistani newspaper THE NATION quoted a spokesman for the Iran-based groups, Karim Khalili, as saying that the Shi'ite groups may hold their own assembly made up uniquely of Shi'ites in Afghanistan.

The Soviet-backed regime in Kabul has taken advantage of the disagreement and stepped up overtures to the Shi'ites.

On Saturday, President Najibullah released 20 Iranians accused of carrying out acts of sabotage inside Afghanistan, and he has also offered to set up autonomous zones for Shi'ites if they came over to his side.

The problem has placed Pakistan in a delicate position, observers said.

Islamabad would like to maintain friendly relations with Tehran but is the main military supporter of the Afghan resistance groups based in its territory and has a majority Sunni Muslim population, they said.

Lists Conditions for Shura

LD1202113189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] According to an IRNA report, Sibghatullah Mojadeddi, spokesman for the National Liberation Front of Afghanistan, announced at a news conference for foreign and domestic correspondents in Islamabad today that the Front does not consider the shura complete without the participation of the eight-party coalition headquartered in Tehran.

He stressed the need for implementation of the agreement between Mojadeddi, head of the seven-party coalition, and Muhammad Karim Khalili, spokesman for the eight-party coalition, recently reached in Tehran adding: Should this agreement not be accepted, the Front will review its decision to attend the shura. He added that the share of the members of the eight-party brothers stationed in Iran is 100 seats as has already been agreed upon.

Resistance Leaders Try To Resolve Differences

BK1102115889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1132 GMT 11 Feb 89

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 11 (AFP)—Afghan resistance leaders Saturday [11 February] continued efforts to resolve internal differences after the adjournment of a crucial assembly aimed at choosing a new Afghan government, resistance sources said.

The sources said the traditional Afghan assembly, or shura, which adjourned Friday after an inaugural session of little more than an hour in the neighbouring city of Rawalpindi, was likely to be reconvened soon.

A break of one or two days had been planned in advance to enable consultations between resistance leaders, the sources said.

The newly appointed shura spokesman, 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, was expected to make an announcement at a press conference later Saturday, the sources said.

Participants had earlier said that no date was set for resumption of the shura, which was to choose a 28-member mujahidin interim government to replace the Soviet-backed regime of Afghan President Najibullah.

They said leaders of the seven-party resistance alliance based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar had been in contact with Iran-based rebel chiefs who had boycotted Friday's session and returned to Tehran.

Leaders of the eight-party Iran-based alliance, who represent the minority Afghan Shi'ite community, stayed away from the session after failing to reach agreement on their quota of shura seats and composition of a goverment.

The seven Pakistan-based leaders, representing the majority Sunnis and themselves divided over the Shi'ite demands, have held two rounds of talks since the shura was adjourned, the resistance sources said.

They also met shura participants who are insisting on a concrete result. Some 400 of the 526 delegates invited to the shura are lodged at the sprawling religious complex where Friday's session was held under tight security.

Sixty shura seats were allotted to each of the Peshawar-based groups and 19 to "good Muslims" working for the Kabul regime or living in the Afghan capital.

Another 60 seats were given to the Iran-based rebels and 20 to three smaller Sunni parties which are independent of the Peshawar alliance.

But the Iran-based groups insisted on 100 seats, as they said was agreed with Peshawar alliance chief Sibghatullah Mojadeddi in Tehran last week.

Fundamentalist groups within the alliance have rejected the agreement, which would give seven cabinet posts in the interim government to Shi'ites, and Mr. Mojadeddi, a moderate, has come under attack for his trip to Iran.

The Iranian Government is pushing the Shi'ite rebels, who have feuded with the Pakistan-based resistance throughout the nine-year Afghan conflict, not to give in, diplomats here said.

Resistance sources here did not rule out a compromise formula which would give four ministries to the Shi'ites. One source however said the shura may be convened Sunday even if the Iran-based rebels refused to attend.

Participants in the shura are also said to be divided over whether the assembly, the first to be held since the Afghan conflict started, should select only a government or the country's president also.

Religious scholars and some mujahidin commanders in the field have called for both decisions to be made simultaneously but the Peshawar alliance wants the government to be finalised before a president is selected.

About 350 delegates attended Friday's opening session. Only a small number of rebel commanders fighting in Afghanistan were present and all 19 "good Muslims" invited from Kabul were absent due to security concerns.

The conference was attended by former diplomats, technocrats, Afghan intellectuals and representatives of some five million Afghan refugees living in Pakistan, the United States, the Middle East and Europe.

The resistance banned Kabul's ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) from the shura, despite repeated Soviet calls for the party to be represented in the assembly and given a role in the next government.

Rebel leaders expect Mr. Najibullah's regime to fall within a few weeks of the Soviet troop withdrawal, to be completed by Wednesday under last year's U.N.-brokered Geneva accords.

Shura To Reconvene

BK1102154689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin's consultative council, which adjourned yesterday, will meet again within 2 to 3 days to continue deliberations on the future of Afghanistan.

A spokesman for the consultative council, shura, 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, told a press conference in Islamabad this evening that reports about an indefinite adjournment of the consultative council session are totally wrong. He added that the issue of participation by the Iran-based mujahidin alliance's representatives in the shura will be settled in the spirit of brotherhood because all Afghan people consider themselves to be a single nation, and they have struggled collectively.

He said the purpose of yesterday's inaugural session was to introduce shura members to each other so that they can exchange views preliminarily on important matters concerning the future of Afghanistan.

Professor Sayyaf said that Professor Sibghatullah Mojadeddi continues to be the chairman of the supreme council of the Islamic alliance of the mujahidin of Afghanistan and Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi has been appointed only as president of the shura.

Talks With Khalili Continue

BK1102162089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1551 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Feb 11 (AFP)—An Afghan resistance assembly aimed at choosing a new Afghan government will reconvene in the next two days even if differences persist between Pakistan- and Iran-based rebels, a spokesman said Saturday.

'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, a member of the seven-party rebel alliance based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar, admitted continuing differences with the Iran-based rebel leaders, who boycotted the assembly's opening session Friday [10 February].

The session, held in a sprawling religious complex in the nearby city of Rawalpindi, was abruptly adjourned after little more than an hour and no date was set for resumption of the traditional gathering, known as a shura.

But shura spokesman Mr. Sayyaf told a press conference here that the shura "will meet in the coming one or two days" whether or not the Iran-based rebels decided to attend.

He did not give an exact date but a source close to the spokesman said the assembly would meet "probably Sunday evening or Monday morning."

Mr. Sayyaf added that an interim government to replace the Soviet-backed administration of President Najibullah had already been decided and that the shura would be given sufficient time to approve it.

"I hope they will not stand in our way and participate in our future government," Mr. Sayyaf said.

Leaders of the eight-party Iran-based alliance, representing the minority Shi'ite community, stayed away from Friday's session after failing to reach agreement on their quota of shura seats and composition of a government.

Mr. Sayyaf said the majority Sunni alliance in Peshawar had proposed to raise the Iran-based rebels' quota to 102 seats from 60 originally offered.

But he added that the additional 42 Iran-based members would be nominated by the Pakistan-based alliance. Observers said those nominated might include Sunnis currently housed in Afghan refugee camps in Iran.

Each of the seven Pakistan-based groups have been allotted 60 seats in the 526-seat shura, while 19 seats have been reserved for "good Muslims" from Kabul and 20 to three Sunni parties independent from the Peshawar alliance.

Mr. Sayyaf said talks were continuing with Iran-based leader Karim Khalili.

The other Iran-based delegates were still waiting for a plane to leave for Iran, informed sources said. Earlier reports said they had left for home.

Mr. Sayyaf criticised the media for drawing the conclusion that the shura had been disrupted, saying the opening session had only been an introductory meeting and "never intended to do any business."

He said the adjournment was aimed at giving time to delegates to get to know each other before the real work begins.

"We do not want to impose any decision on the participants," he said.

Mr. Sayyaf said the members would be given ample time to freely express their views and offer concrete proposals for peace in Afghanistan.

The seven Pakistan-based leaders, who are reportedly divided over how far to compromise with the Iran-based resistance, have held two rounds of talks since the shura was adjourned, resistance sources said earlier Saturday. [passage omitted]

Khalili Cites Violation of Pact

LD1102195389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Correspondent's report from Islamabad—recorded]

[Text] The first session of the Afghan mujahidin shura began yesterday [10 February] at a time when the session was being boycotted because of certain internal disagreements by members of the Afghan mujahidin 8-party coalition based in Iran. The session finally ended, without any clear result after about 2 hours of discussion and debate.

Mr Muhammad Karim Khalili, the spokesman for the 8-party Afghan mujahidin coalition based in Iran, told foreign reporters last night that the reason for the coalition's absence was the clear violation of the pact agreed upon between the coalition and the Afghan mujahidin 7-party alliance. In the pact, the two sides had announced their acceptance of the participation of 100 members of the mujahidin coalition in the shura. That pact was signed in Tehran by Mr Sibghatullah Mojadeddi, leader and spokesman of the 7-party Afghan alliance.

It is worth noting that Mr Sibghatullah Mojadeddi, for his part, confirmed the existence of this pact in an interview with reporters yesterday. He said that as far as he was concerned the pact remained valid. He added that some of the leaders of the member groups of the 7-party mujahidin alliance unfortunately do not accept that pact.

Yesterday, after the official commencement of the shura session, representatives of the National Liberation Front of Afghanistan, which is led by Mr Sibghatullah Mojadeddi, arrived at the session after about half an hour's delay. Before entering, they announced that the reason for their delayed arrival was to protest the absence of brothers from the 8-party coalition in the first session of the shura. They also asked for an immediate resolution of the disagreements between Afghan groups based in Iran and Pakistan.

On the other hand, Mr Khalili, spokesman for the Afghan mujahidin 8-party coalition, said that if certain leaders of the 7-party alliance put the national interests of Afghanistan before their own personal interests, undoubtedly, the Afghan people will stride toward national stability.

He added: Even though the coalition's boycott of the shura may not inflict any damage on the seven-party alliance, it will certainly inflict irreparable damge on national unity and on the establishment of peace and stability in the future in Afghanistan. He also added: In our opinion, any government in Afghanistan must include the wishes of all the people of Afghanistan. Otherwise it would be condemned to failure.

Shura To Reconvene 13 Feb

BK1202165289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1638 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 12 (AFP)—An Afghan mujahidin assembly which was adjourned due to differences between Pakistan- and Iran-based rebels was expected to reconvene in Rawalpindi on Monday, the pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY said.

The assembly, or shura, was in session for only an hour Friday [10 February] before being adjourned, as Iran-based Shi'ite rebel leaders continued to disagree over the quota of seats allotted them by the Sunni alliance based in Peshawar.

The eight Iran-based parties, which boycotted Friday's session at a large complex in the nearby city of Rawalpindi, had still not resolved differences with the seven Peshawar parties late Sunday, informed sources said here.

The Shi'ites, the minority community in Afghanistan, had been given a total of just 60 seats in the 526-member assembly while the seven Pakistan-based parties were allotted 60 each. The Iran-based leaders want 100 seats.

The split has led to divisions among moderates and fundamentalist leaders in Peshawar, with one moderate chief, Zabihullah Mojadeddi, threatening Sunday to pull out of the alliance if the Shi'ite rebels did not take part in the shura.

Iranian deputy premier 'Ali Reza Moayeri, who arrived here Sunday to try to break the deadlock, had talks with several senior Foreign Office officials and was due Monday to meet Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

The shura was to name an interim government to replace the Soviet-backed regime of President Najibullah which resistance leaders predict will fall within weeks of the completion of the Soviet troop withdrawal Wednesday.

Shura spokesman 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, a fundamentalist, had said Saturday that the assembly would be reconvened in "one or two days" whether or not the Iran-based rebels decided to attend.

But Mr. Zabihullah Mojadeddi, son of 64-year old Peshawar alliance chairman Sibghatullah Mojadeddi, said he believed resumption of the shura would be delayed for at least a week to allow the rebels to resolve their differences. .

Session Delayed 4 Hours

BK1302131289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1259 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Feb 13 (AFP)—Reconvening of a crucial Afghan mujahidin assembly was delayed Monday amid intense last-ditch efforts to resolve intra-Afghan differences, rebels and diplomatic sources here said.

The consultative council, or shura, which broke up Friday after a one-hour opening session that was boycotted by Iran-based Shi'ite mujahidin over the level of representation they were allowed, was to resume Monday afternoon, resistance sources said.

But they said it would not reconvene before 7:00 p.m. (1400 GMT), at least four hours behind schedule.

The delay was because the supreme council of the seven-party Sunni rebel alliance, the main resistance force based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar near the Afghan border, was still negotiating with the Iran-based groups, the sources said.

The Shi'ites, who represent about 10 percent of the Afghan population, had been given 60 seats in the 526-member assembly, while the seven Peshawar-based parties were allotted 60 each.

The shura was to name an interim government to replace the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul, which resistance leaders predict will fall within weeks of the completion of a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, due Wednesday. [passage omitted]

UNHCR Denies Reports Relief Convoy Attacked

BK1102141989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1401 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 11 (AFP)—The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) denied here Saturday a report by the Soviet news agency TASS that a U.N. relief convoy was attacked and looted by rebels in northeast Afghanistan.

"As we have no convoys in that region there could not possibly have been an attack," on U.N. trucks, a UNHCR spokesman said.

TASS, quoting the official Afghan news agency BAKHTAR, said Saturday that mujahidin rebels had attacked a convoy near Jalalabad in northeast Afghanistan, 90 kilometres (55 miles) from the Pakistan border.

TASS said the 47-lorry convoy carrying "essential supplies" had been "completely looted" by the guerrillas.

Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar Province, is almost completly surrounded by the mujahidin who are reportedly only a few kilometres (miles) from the city. Mujahidin sources said fighting was taking place to the north of the city.

Informed sources here said the Afghan resistance, the Soviet-backed Kabul government and the U.N. had agreed in principle to allow supplies to be sent by land and air to Kabul, Qandahar in the southeast, and Jalalabad.

But considerable technical difficulties remain in delivering the supplies to the cities, which are suffering acute shortages due to rebel pressure.

A U.N. airlift of supplies to Kabul began Friday with the arrival of a chartered Boeing 707 carrying 26 tonnes of wheat. U.N. sources said another 23 flights would be made to the city over the next two weeks.

Ethiopians Withdraw From UN Emergency Airlift

BK1202122989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1218 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 12 (AFP)—Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan, the U.N. coordinator of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, indicated Sunday that official pressure on foreign carriers had caused the suspension of an emergency airlift to Kabul.

Addressing a news conference here, Prince Sadruddin said the pilot of an Ethiopian Airlines plane which flew emergency supplies to the Afghan capital Friday had received instructions not to make any more flights.

"The pilot of the Ethiopian Airlines received instructions from Addis Ababa not to proceed with the operation," he said.

Asked whether the airline was acting on the instructions of the Ethiopian Government, Prince Sadruddin said: "I don't know. Ask Ethopian Airlines."

"We are all human beings and some people might be getting cold feet," he added.

The Ethopian Airlines Boeing 707 delivered a first consignment of nearly 30 tonnes of supplies to the Afghan capital Friday but then abruptly withdrew from the airlift operation.

Diplomatic sources said Ethiopian Airlines may have given into possible opposition to the operation from some governments. They did not elaborate.

The decision by Ethiopian Airlines not to participate in the airlift program followed Egypt Air's withdrawal and has thrown the U.N. humanitarian program into disarray.

The United Nations had planned to send in another 23 flights over the next two weeks, supplying Kabul with a total of 600 tonnes of wheat, 90 tonnes of edible oil, 45 tonnes of sugar and 36 tonnes of powdered milk.

The airlift is aimed at supplying food and medicine to 30,000 people considered "very vulnerable," including children under five, pregnant or nursing mothers and patients in hospitals.

Prince Sadruddin said the United Nations had contacted 15 companies about taking part in the airlift but only Egypt Air had originally agreed.

But it withdrew at the last minute forcing the United Nations to charter the Ethiopian Airlines plane for the airlift to Kabul, where severe food and fuel shortages have been reported amid Afghan resistance pressure on the city.

"The supplies are most urgently needed but we are trying for alternatives," Prince Sadruddin said.

He said arrangements were being made to send supplies into Afghanistan by land but that a relief convoy for the eastern Afghan province of Kunarha had been held up by the poor roads.

He said that he had received "many requests" from the Afghan resistance to channel the U.N. assistance through the mujahidin. But he said he was "not prepared for a tradeoff... The U.N. assistance is for all."

He said that the people suffering are civilians, adding that during his 30 years of dealing with refugees "I have never seen a man in uniform starving."

Prince Sadruddin also said experts from France, Turkey and the United States were helping train Afghan refugees in detecting and defusing mines laid in Afghanistan during the past nine years.

He said the threat of mines was one of the main issues he discussed with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Islamabad last week.

Soviet assistance was also sought in acquiring specimens of the mines Soviet troops have laid in Afghanistan. He described the anti-personnel mines as a major obstruction in the return of refugees.

Government Expects Major Offensive in Jalalabad

BK1302023689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0219 GMT 13 Feb 89

[By Alain Boebion]

[Text] Kabul, Feb 13 (AFP)—The Afghan Government is expecting a major rebel offensive on the eastern town of Jalalabad and has not ruled out an attack on the airport here during the final days of the Soviet pullout, sources said.

The outskirts of Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar Province, near the Pakistan border, were shelled Saturday [11 February] evening and Sunday morning by missiles launched from Kabul, about 120 kilometers (75 miles) west.

Two of the missiles struck as Afghan President Najibullah, speaking on national television and radio, accused Pakistan of massing troops along the border to invade Jalalabad, where the rebels have been massing troops over the past months.

The firing of three Soviet-made Scud-B missiles could be heard distinctly in western Kabul, where Afghan artillery fire had doubled in intensity Sunday.

Government sources confirmed that the Nangarhar region east of Kabul had been bombed and that the target was an area between Jalalabad and the Afghan border town of Towr Kham.

The range of the Scud-B missiles, with a maximum payload of 500 kilos (1,100 pounds), is 280 kms (175 miles), more than enough to reach the 200 kms (125 miles) from Kabul to the Pakistani border.

Scud missiles were used for the first time in Afghanistan in November 1988.

A government source described the renewed artillery fire in Kabul suburbs after more than a week without the deafening roar of the 130 millimeter guns as "intimidation" against the mujahidin.

The Afghan Government acknowledges that "thousands of rebels have infiltrated Kabul over the past 10 years," although some diplomats here believe the resistance may account for as many as two-thirds of the city's 2.6 million inhabitants.

A quick suburban tour of Kabul's main exit roads north towards the Soviet border, east to Jalalabad, south to Qandahar and west towards Paghman confirms the official conclusion that the mujahidin are close and have surrounded the capital.

An Afghan soldier manning a post near Charikar village, barely five kms (three miles) north of here, stopped correspondents by shouting, in Farsi and Russian: "Forbidden to go further for security reasons."

The official explanation later was "the presence of mujahidin a few kilometers away" along the Salang highway, the main road leading to the Soviet Union and now filled with long convoys of Red Army vehicles.

A French reporter and photographer who took the road that was open to civilian traffic for about 50 kilometers (30 miles) last week were detained for several hours by rebels of the Hezb-e Eslami faction of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar.

A nervous-looking civilian in Tangi, 20 kilometers (13 miles) east of Kabul on the Jalalabad road and at the entrance to the Kabul River gorge, also cited security in forbidding a group of three reporters from walking any further.

"The mujahidin are 15 kms (nine miles) away," he said.

On the road road west to Paghman, less than 10 kilometers (six miles) from here, militiamen were firing a 130-mm cannon, which has a 16-km (10-mile) range, towards several villages lost from view in the foothills of snow-covered mountains.

"These villages harbour small groups of mujahidin who will fire at night on Kabul," one militiaman said.

Trucks and buses were travelling on the road towards Ghazni, in the south, but reporters were stopped 15 kms (nine miles) from Kabul and told to turn back—again, because the guerrillas were only a few kilometers (2 miles) away.

Two Soviet soldiers still stood guard Sunday at Kabul airport, closed down due to heavy snowfall.

They were part of some 600 men who will be the last to leave by Wednesday's February 15 deadline, Afghan Government officials say, along with some 600 others at the Soviet base in Shindand, 120 kms (75 miles) southwest of Herat, in western Afghanistan.

The departure of the final Soviet soldier will be accompanied by an airport ceremony and a press conference by Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil, as well as a nationwide radio and television address by Mr. Najibullah, an official here said Sunday.

20,000 Mujahidin Reportedly Surrounding Kabul

LD1102151189 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] London Feb. 11, IRNA—An Afghan pilot, Muhammad Kabir, stationed at Bagram Airbase has defected to the mujahidin, according to Afghan sources in London.

AFGHAN AGENCY PRESS (AAP), monitored here Friday, reported that after his capture the Afghan pilot hepled the mujahidin launch rocket and mortar attacks on Bagram Airbase on the morning of February 4th.

Meanwhile, 20,000 mujahidin fighters are reported to have surrounded the Afghan capital Kabul in an attempt to capture the city and bring the downfall of the Soviet-puppet regime, AAP said.

The operation was being led by the commanders of the Peshawar-based seven party alliance.

According to the same report, the mujahidin also stormed the military camp in Qarah Bagh area on the morning of February 5th, capturing 34 soldiers of the communist Kabul regime.

Mujahidin Armed Operations 6-10 Feb Reported

LD1202144289 Tehran IRNA in English 1250 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 12, IRNA—In a series of attacks against troop concentrations of the Moscow-backed Najibullah regime mujahidin combatants killed a number of soldiers and inflicted heavy material damage in various regions of Afghanistan between 6-10 February, as the last Soviet occupation forces prepared to leave the country.

In the Paktia Province Muslim mujahidin guerrillas killed seven government soldiers, including two officers, injured 16 others and damaged a military aircraft on 6 February, the Afghan news agency reported.

On the same day in Qandahar Province five soldiers of the communist Najibullah-regime were killed, 17 wounded and three army vehicles destroyed. In another

attack on 8 February against the secret-police KHAD's office and a police station 16 persons, including three junior commissioned officers, were shot dead and two trucks destroyed.

mujahidin fighters blew up two ammunition dumps, damaged two aircraft and one helicopter and destroyed several vehicles in a surprise attack on Shindand airport on 6 February, the agency reported.

In similar operations in Qezel Bulaq district road area in Herat Province on 10 February and in Ghowr Province on 7 February, the mujahidin captured 65 government troops and a large amount of arms and ammunition and blew up a pipeline.

24 soldiers, including four officers, surrendered to mujahidin fighters following a heavy attack in the Shahrak district, on 6 February, the agency said.

Combat Operations 9-10 Feb

LD1002154689 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] According to a reliable source in the Armed Forces, security prevailed in most provinces of the country over the past 24 hours and transportation continued along the major highways. A number of armed men, who have become aware of current facts in society, came over to defend the national authority. In some provinces of the country where armed activities by extremist groups were carried out, the Armed Forces foiled their attempts and crushed a number of robbers and injured other terrorists.

The military section of BIA reported the following on the military situation:

Nangarhar: The extremists used heavy weapons to shell security posts and residential regions in Pol-e Alam, Shiveh, Rudjan and Sorkh Dival regions. The security forces then retaliated. As a result two members of the security forces were martyred.

Paktia: The extremists, who do not have any objective other than to disrupt the peace of the inhabitants shelled Khowst city, Jaji Meydan and Orgun regions as a result of which four inhabitants were injured and a house was set ablaze.

Qandahar: As a result of Armed Forces retaliatory fire in response to heavy weapons fire by the extremists, seven of these murderers were killed and a missile unit was destroyed. One security man was also martyred.

According to another report, as a result of an explosion in Qandahar city, which was caused by the extemist groups, 5 citizens were martyred and another 20 were injured. As a result of an attack by the security forces in Daman district, Qandahar Province three boxes of AK-47 ammunition and two boxes of DShK ammunition were seized.

Helmand: As a result of heavy weapons fire on Lashkar Gah city one security guard was martyred and another three were injured.

Herat: The extremists shelled the residential areas and security posts of Herat city, as a result of which one inhabitant was injured.

Armed extremists who perceive the righteousness of the national reconciliation policy have come over to the government side. For example, three armed men attached to the Jamiyat group came over to the government side, bringing their weapons.

Konduz: As a result of retaliatory operations carried out by the security forces in Hazrat-e Soltan region, where extremists were attempting to disrupt security, 31 terrorists were killed and another 22 were injured. Three missile units, four mortars, and two ZK-1's were destroyed. The extremists shelled Konduz city with heavy weapons but did not cause any casualties.

Security Situation 10-11 Feb

LD1102145689 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] According to an authoritative Armed Forces source, the situation has been normal in most of the country's provinces. The Armed Forces units and companies remained deployed in their previous positions. The country's main highways, which link the important cities, are open to traffic.

In some regions where the extremists groups resorted to armed activities, the Armed Forces units and companies dealt them crushing blows, as a result of which 7 of them were killed, 4 injured and several of their trenches were seized.

The BIA military section reports as follows on the military situation in the last 24 hours:

Qandahar: In response to terrorist attacks and destruction, the security forces searched and mopped up (Qala-e 'Ali Zai) airport in the eastern region and [word indistinct]. Seven extremists were killed and a number were injured. Nine enemy hideouts, 4 trenches, several DShK's, a ZK-1, and a mortar were destroyed. 72 anti-personnel mines and 1,300 DShK shells were seized. A Chinese-manufactured BM-14 and 2 vehicles carrying arms and ammunition belonging to the extremists were destroyed when the Artillery and Air Force struck a reciprocal blow in Daman district.

Helmand: The enemies of people's peace and tranquility fired a number of rockets at residential areas and security posts in Lashkar Gah city. No losses were reported.

Paktia: The criminals supported by the Pakistani military used heavy weapons to shell Jaji Meydan, Lakan, Khowst city, and Nader Shah Kowt, as a result of which a local man and one woman were martyred.

Nangarhar: The destructive extremist groups fired heavy weapons at security posts and residential areas in Chapliar Khwar. No losses were incurred.

The security forces have captured several of the extremists strong holds in the regions between Sarowbi and Jalalabad.

The situation is normal in other provinces and regions of the country.

Ya'qubi, Delawar Visits Nangarhar Security Posts

LD1102212389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Appreciation was recently expressed to the Nangarhar Armed Forces officers who have performed their duties with merit. The BAKHTAR military section reports that Lieutenant General Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister of state security; Major General Muhammad Asef Delawar, chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces; and Brigadier General 'Abdul Baqi, head of the defense and security department of the Presidency, inspected posts in the security belt of Nangarhar Province and talked to officers and soldiers there. They gave instructions on improving the living conditions of officers and privates.

The state security minister highlighted the duties and responsibilities of the staff at the security posts regarding the independent defense of the country and surprise attacks by the armed extremists. He explained their mission was to ensure the implementation of the humanitarian national reconciliation policy, peace, and security.

During the visit, Lt Gen Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi and Lt Gen Muhammad Asef Delawar awarded medals and orders of the Republic of Afghanistan to officers and privates who exhibited bravery in independently defending the borders of the country and aborting attacks by the extremists.

The report adds that Nangarhar Governor Manoki Mangal and Brigadier General Barakzay, commander of the Nangarhar Armed Forces, accompanied the Afghan minister of state security and chief of general staff.

Journalists' Movements Restricted; 3 Expelled

BK1302115789 Hong Kong AFP in English 2119 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb 12 (AFP)—The Afghan Government on Sunday announced the expulsion of three French journalists and new measures to limit the movement of foreign reporters within the country.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a Mr. Amani, said the expulsions follow visits made by the three journalists to a province neighbouring Kabul earlier on Sunday without notifying the Afghan authorities.

The three were not identified.

Mr. Amani added that beginning Monday [13 February], foreign journalists must complete forms stating where they are going and when they will return to the Intercontinental Hotel, home to most of the foreign press here.

The spokesman said the new measures were justified by security reasons and that "henceforth all journalists' movements would be programmed."

Mr. Amani warned that any reporter failing to respect the new measures "would be expelled."

There are currently 47 French journalists in Afghanistan, out of a total of about a hundred.

India

Further on Visit by Australian Prime Minister

Hawke Urges Test Ban Treaty

BK1102041389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] The Australian prime minister, Mr Bob Hawke, has called for an immediate comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. Welcoming the superpower agreement on arms control, he said that the goal of such a treaty must be total nuclear disarmament.

Mr Hawke was delivering the third Indira Gandhi memorial lecture in New Delhi yesterday. He described the recent India-Pakistan agreement on prohibiting attacks against each other's nuclear installations as a positive step.

Praising Mr Gorbachev's reforms in the Soviet Union, the Australian premier hoped that the continuation of Moscow's new approach will find a cooperative spirit of goodwill in the United States.

Paying glowing tributes to Indira Gandhi, Mr Hawke said that she left an indelible imprint on the political and socioeconomic life of India. She ensured that India's voice was heard with force and (?clarity) in world affairs.

Presiding over the function, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, described Mr Hawke as a man of deep conviction who supported causes dear to India. He expressed confidence that India and Australia in partnership would pave a new era in bilateral relations.

Spokesman on Outcome of Talks

BK1002160989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] India and Australia have welcomed the efforts being made by the countries of the region to increase contacts to find a solution to the Kampuchean issue acceptable to all parties concerned.

During their second round of talks in New Delhi today, the prime ministers of the two countries, Mr Bob Hawke and Mr Rajiv Gandhi, shared similar views on the need to prevent a return to the situation in Kampuchea where acts of genocide were commonplace.

Briefing newsmen about the outcome of the talks, an official spokesman said that the situation in Afghanistan figured at the talks. The two leaders also discussed developments in the relationship between China and the Soviet Union. During their 45-minute meeting held with aides, the situation in southern Africa and Namibia, and affairs relating to Commonwealth came up for discussion.

Answering questions by newsmen on Afghanistan, the spokesman said both Mr Hawke and Mr Gandhi recognized that the Soviet troop pullout from Afghanistan is a positive development. Both sides were of the view that it is for the Afghan people to decide what setup they want.

Answering another question, the spokesman said that the Australian prime minister expressed complete understanding of India strengthening its Navy. He said the subject figured at the discussion between the two prime ministers today in the light of a reference to the Indian naval buildup in a section of the Australian media.

India and Australia signed three memorandums of understanding covering telecommunications, railways, and meteorology. In telecommunications, the two countries agreed to set up working groups to jointly examine specific matters such as new technology and network programs. The working group will also look into telecommunications, research, training, planning, design, and construction. There will also be exchange of information and personnel.

In the field of railways, the memorandum of understanding covers modernization of the meter-gauge network of Indian railways for heavy haul operations.

In meteorology, the two countries will draw up detailed projects for study of global and regional teleconnections in the areas of tropical and satellite meteorology as well as numerical models for analyses and prediction. It provides for exchange of personnel for training, research, and exchange of scientific and technical information including publications and research reports.

Hawke Departs Delhi 12 Feb

BK1202085889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] The Australian prime minister, Mr Bob Hawke, has said that his current visit to India has placed the bilateral relations on a very firm footing. Talking to newsmen before his departure from New Delhi this morning, he said his discussions with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, covered a whole range of bilateral matters.

Mr Hawke said both the countries shared common ground on many issues. He said the two governments will now work toward further consolidation of the bilateral and economic ties for a more productive phase.

Replying to a question, the Australian prime minister said an Indian engineering goods exhibition will be held in Australia shortly and an Indian automobile parts manufacturers delegation will also visit Canberra. This is a part of the efforts to explore more opportunities for export of Indian goods.

Mr Hawke was seen off at the airport by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and some of his cabinet colleagues.

High-Level Soviet Delegation Arrives 13 Feb

BK1302091789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] A high-level Soviet delegation led by the deputy prime minister, Mrs A.P. Biryukova, arrived in New Delhi today. The 22-member delegation was received at the airport by the commerce minister, Mr Dinesh Singh.

During a weeklong stay the members of the delegation will explore the possibility of long term import of Indian goods, including garments and shoes.

Narasimha Rao on Relations With Pakistan, China

BK1202085089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, has said India is hopeful of normalizing its relations with Pakistan. Speaking to PTI in Harare, he said the recent talks between the prime ministers of the two countries in Islamabad has opened a new era in bilateral relations.

He said the two countries have inherited some difficult problems and it requires a lot of goodwill on both sides to solve them. He expressed the hope that the forthcoming secretary-level talks will pave the way to find out solutions to the outstanding issues.

Referring to the border issue between India and China, the external affairs minister said some progress has been achieved with the setting up of a joint working group during Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Beijing.

Afghan Envoy on Reported Pakistan Proposal

BK1002125489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] The Afghan ambassador to India, Mr A.S. Azhar, has criticized the Pakistan president's reported proposal for setting up a confederation of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Addressing a news conference in New Delhi today, he said it is bad as it impinges on the integrity and independence of Afghanistan. He alleged that Pakistan Army is continuing to help rebels and amassing troops on the border. He renewed the call for reconciliation and said the only way out is to let the people decide through elections. He said that PDPA cannot be ignored in any settlement as it is the largest and most popular party.

Pakistan Reportedly To Buy Fighters From PRC

BK1102124989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Pakistan plans to purchase 125 fighter jets from China and Australia to strengthen its Air Force. Reporting this, an English daily, published from Islamabad, said Pakistan has reached an agreement with China to purchase 75 F-7 fighter aircraft at a cost of about $225 million.

The F-7 aircraft is the Chinese version of the Soviet MiG-21. These aircraft are to replace the F-6 aircraft acquired from China earlier.

The daily also said that there are plans to purchase 50 secondhand Mirage fighter aircraft from Australia at a cost of $50 million. Pakistan Air Force will also be getting 12 more F-16 fighter aircraft from the United States under the current $4 billion economic and military aid package.

Paper Comments on Pakistan's Missile Tests

BK1202100089 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 7 Feb 89 p 13

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Missiles"]

[Text] Pakistan's declaration with a flourish that it has test-fired rockets for what should eventually make it a missiles power seems more designed to divert the focus of India's concern from Islamabad's capacity to make a nuclear bomb to its imminent mastery of a lethal delivery system.

It is not without significance that the announcer was the Pakistan Army chief, Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg, and the occasion was his address to the National Defence College at Rawalpindi before a crowd of military students from Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, Jordan and Turkey doing a war course.

Since Pakistan claims that it is not pursuing a nuclear weapons programme,, it should follow that its space research is geared to no military objectives.

The proud announcement of the test-firing of missiles should have ordinarily come from the Pakistan Prime Minister, or someone on the civilian side of Pakistan's political structure, as an instance of outstanding scientific achievement. But, then, the intended military significance and the message of the event would have been lost.

Why should one assume that the missile story was a calculated move made at a particular point of time? The answer should be available in the recent news reports virtually confirming Western acquiesence in Pakistan's endeavour in the nuclear and thermo-nuclear fields, and in the projected view that the US Administration may no longer find it easy to certify Pakistan's non-weapons programme for continued American economic and military aid.

The danger to uninterrupted US support might also have partly arisen because of Senator Stephen Solarz's strong views about the nuclear pursuits in South Asia. Gen. Beg might have felt compelled to tell the Senator that the latter would not be allowed to jeopardise the benign and indulgent attitude the US has traditionally adopted towards Pakistan.

The new emphasis on missiles might serve another purpose. Washington apparently is getting reconciled to its inability to prevent Pakistan from having nuclear bombs in the basement. Its attempt to thrust upon India and Pakistan the concept of mutual abstinence of nuclear weapons has proved futile. The objective to get New Delhi around to it might be a step closer were a missiles race between India and Pakistan to become a reality.

Pakistan's lack of depth in land mass makes a missiles parity with India of far greater significance than possessing just a nuclear arsenal. Given the West's dislike of the development of rocketry and space technology in South Asia, an Indo-Pak missiles parity might become a tempting aim to achieve for Washington.

Since the possession of a long-range missile in the hands of Islamabad poses far greater security risks for New Delhi than a bomb, India might find the concept of a missiles parity difficult to accept. Pakistan's launching its missiles has only one message for New Delhi: It should stop dilly-dallying on its own missiles programme.

'Prohibitory Orders' Imposed After Explosions

BK1102031489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] In Srinagar, a powerful bomb exploded in the Bal Garden area of the city damaging a residential house and two vehicles last night. There was, however, no casualty. The bomb was planted in a vacant tourist bus.

Earlier in the day, police defused an explosive device which was planted near the building housing the office of the City Information and Press Information Bureau. The Srinagar divisional commissioner told our correspondent that before the bomb could explode, it was defused.

He said an explosion took place on Thursday [9 February] near the divisional commissioner's office in the city, damaging the compound wall. There were two other explosions in (Toregaum) village in south Kashmir causing minor damage.

Meanwhile, prohibitory orders banning carrying of arms, assembly of five or more persons, use of public address system, and taking out processions and holding meetings have been promulgated in the city. The ban will be operative for 2 months.

12 Killed, 30 Seriously Injured in Assam Blast

BK1102074689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] In Assam, 12 persons died and 30 others were seriously injured in a powerful bomb explosion in a private bus yesterday. According to official sources in Guwahati, two persons died on the spot and the rest succumbed to their injuries in hospital.

The bomb went off near Dhaligaon in Kokrajhar District. The bus was going from Basugaon to Bongaigaon. The injured have been admitted to hospitals. Senior district officials have rushed to the spot and are investigating.

2 People Killed, 9 'Terrorists' Arrested in Punjab

BK1102150089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists killed two persons and injured six, including an ASI [assistant subinspector of police], while security forces arrested nine terrorists from different places in the state.

An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that one person was gunned down and five injured in village Johal under Tanda police station of Hoshiarpur District. One person was killed at village Hira in Amritsar District last night.

15 'Terrorists' Arrested

BK1202160689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] In Punjab, 15 terrorists, including 5 hardcore, have been arrested by the security forces during the last 24 hours. Four hardcore terrorists were arrested after an encounter near Moga in Ferozepore District this morning. Seven terrorists, including a hardcore, Jaswant Singh, alias Jassa, were arrested in Gurdaspur, one each in Ludhiana and Faridkot and two in Amritsar District. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from them. Elsewhere in the state, terrorists gunned down four persons.

Iran

Revolution Guards 'Planning' U.S. Plane Attack

NC1302125289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Party sources who are opposed to the ruling regime in Iran have disclosed that the Iranian Revolution Guards are currently planning to carry out a terrorist operation against a U.S. passenger plane.

The sources add that preparations for this operation are under way in Switzerland, where two members of the abovementioned organization arrived recently to study the possibility of carrying out such an operation.

Larijani Clarifies Remarks to U.S. Paper

NC1002202689 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 31 Jan 89 p 12

[Text] THE WASHINGTON POST has written: A high-ranking Iranian has asked the Bush government to display its goodwill toward Iran by paying compensation to the families of the victims of the downing of the Iranian passenger airliner by a U.S. naval unit, or to release at least some of the Iranian assets currently under dispute and debate at the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

Citing Dr Larijani, the deputy foreign minister, THE WASHINGTON POST wrote that the sum Iran is asking from the United States need not be an astronomical one. It could be a token sum, which would improve the image of the United States in Iran. The Iranian deputy foreign minister said: Recently, Iran has improved its relations with the Soviet Union to a high level. He added: Iran is ready to balance its relations with both superpowers. He went on to say: If a country wishes to have dealings with us on the basis of mutual interests, reciprocal regard, and nonintervention in one another's internal affairs, we shall definitely and undoubtedly be ready for discussions with that country.

The deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: The United States should separate the issue of the hostages from the issue of opening the chapter of political negotiations with Iran.

Commenting on Dr Larijani's remarks, Charles Redman, spokesman for the U.S. State Department, stated: The United States remains committed and obliged to pay compensation to the families of the victims of the downing of the Iranian passenger jet. He said: We are busy collecting data on the passengers of Flight 655.

Dr Larijani stated in this context: U.S. officials can obtain the list from the ICAO [International Civil Aviation Organization].

Redman recalled: The International Court of Justice at The Hague has ordered the United States to reimburse Iran for its military equipment frozen in the United States in 1979 when the shah was overthrown. However, he said, the two sides have to present their claims regarding the value of the equipment.

Meanwhile, in a brief interview with a RESALAT correspondent, specifically on his interview with THE WASHINGTON POST which was carried by VOA, Dr Larijani stated: Evidently, the Americans have distorted what I said. In general, I said in this interview: "What is important is that the United States change its policy toward Iran."

In the past the United States adopted a policy of hostility toward Iran and a policy of interference in its affairs, and this policy should change. The frozen assets belong to Iran and are not something the United States would be paying to Iran. This sum "belongs" to Iran and if U.S. policy really were to change, there would be no reason for Iranian assets to be frozen.

Dr Larijani added: From the purely financial point of view, the Iranian assets are not so important. Their release, however, would be an action conveying goodwill, and it would certainly have an effect on Iranian public opinion as well.

Khamene'i Addresses Revolution Rally in Tehran

LD1102120589 Tehran IRNA in English 1145 GMT 11 Feb 89

[By Mohammad Javid and Nawab Khann]

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA—Men, women and children of all ages took part in a mass demonstration marking the first decade of the Islamic Revolution, starting from Enqelab (Revolution) Square towards Azadi (Freedom) Square West of the capital Saturday morning.

One of the biggest gatherings of recent years, which included foreign guests, ministers and diplomats, listened to President 'Ali Khamene'i promising the nation that Iran will be transformed into a more prosperous Islamic state in another ten years from now.

People, in good spirits, seemed to be taking their time as they walked towards Azadi Square, some carrying placards with slogans printed by the organizing committee.

"Death to drug traffickers" was by far the most popular new slogan along with the usual "Death to America" and "Down with Israel".

Helicopters, including the Shabaviz built by Iran's defence industries, dropped flowers and leaflets carrying congratulatory messages on the human sea below.

Families, young couples, were most noticable. Wives in their chador walked along side their husbands who were often carrying or holding the hand of young children in colorful pink, sky blue, yellow, and red winter clothes.

Some women carried framed portraits of their sons and husbands martyred in the eight-year Iraqi war. But a general festive mood was evident in the crowd, some spreading bedsheets on sidewalks to have an early lunch or just plain resting.

Along the way peddlers, revolutionary charity organizations, and mobile theaters demanded attention.

The Imam Khomeyni Relief Agency had set up numerous stands urging donations for the poor, while the Islamic Revolution's Committee men handed out leaflets seeking information about drug traffickers.

Kamyab Bahar-Mastiyan [name as received] a committee member sat behind a small table writing addresses where people claimed drugs were being sold or used. In less than four hours he was given 300 pieces of information. There were also long queues of people wanting to sign scrolls supporting the anti-narcotics drive.

Few stands were seen gathering money for the war fronts.

In the meantime hundreds of peddlers were making a small fortune selling a variety of foods including cakes, nuts and steamed sugar beet, as well as cigarettes, pens, baloons and toys.

Salavati stations, handed out ash (soup), tea, orange juice and nuts in return for offering blessings on the prophet (peace be upon him) and on his descendants, also thrived.

Mobile theatre groups depicting the oppressive rule of the deposed U.S.-supported shah performed for the cheering crowds.

Further on President's Speech

LD1102131589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Speech by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to a gathering at Azadi Square in Tehran on the morning of 11 February marking the 10th anniversary of Ayatollah Khomeyni's return from exile—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Today, throughout this great country, in the land of the martyrs, the Iranian nation is celebrating the 10th year of the breaking of dawn and the victory of the oppressed over the tyrants. [passage omitted]

Today our nation is at a great and significant juncture. The Iranian nation has fought and resisted for 10 years in order to maintain the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic's system. Today we are able to see the fruit of this struggle and resistance—a nation which stands proud among other nations. [passage omitted]

I would like to take a glance at the past, the present, and the future. Regarding the past, the point to which I draw your attention is that despite the enemies' intentions, desires, and plots, this revolution has become stronger, deeper, and more structured. [passage omitted] The enemies are still trying to fill the world's atmosphere with their antagonistic propaganda. On the one hand, the economic blockade has helped to consolidate our administration. On the other hand, they organized the economic embargo against us to prevent the Iranian nation and the officials of the Islamic Republic from freely—and in accordance with their plans—using the facilities normally exchanged between governments and countries.

Today, 10 years after the victory of the Islamic revolution and the establishment of the Islamic Republic, there are governments that possess certain facilities, have the same short-sightedness and hostile, harsh, and spiteful attitudes toward the Islamic Republic.

On the other hand, they imposed the war on this nation. For 10 years the enemies conspired against this revolution, nation, and Islamic Republic. About 8 of the 10 years were spent on a full-scale war. [passage omitted]

Today, after 10 years of struggle, in assessing our general situation we feel it is considerably better than any nation which has gone through such a large-scale war and endured such pressure. Admittedly, there are shortages in our society. No doubt the sacred goals of the revolution have not yet been completely attained. [passage omitted]

Today the state of our revolution is as I describe. With God's blessings, the revolution has taken root in our society. Islamic faith has become a deep-rooted ideology in our nation. Today the Iranian nation is recognized in the world as a brave and resisting nation . No nation hears the saga of our nation without admiring it. [passage omitted] Today our nation is experienced and knows the way and recognizes its enemy. Now, if God wishes to assist us, and with the assistance of you people, we can move toward our great goals. [passage omitted]

Today we have experienced officials. Fortunately, during the past 10 years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been able to train managers; that is, people with potential and talent have been trained on this nation's great battlefields. These people are capable of governing the society and leading the nation toward its goals and utilizing the strength of the people. Of course, our global enemies' enmity toward Islam is interminable. However, the power of our nation will
mies' enmity, as it has d definitely overcome our ene-
tried to prevent the Islam done up until now. The enemy
roots. But, thank God, thic revolution from spreading its
he revolution has roots.

Today there are many na
slogans in the name of tations and countries that shout
adopted the Iranian nathe Iranian Republic and have
enemies of the Iranian tion as their model. Even the
revolution, because the I nation cannot disregard the
ing, and valiant nation. Iranian nation is a great, resist-

Today, those who migh
aggressionist ideas as pa entertain hegemonistic and
hegemonist regimes knowrt of their inborn nature, and
be dominated by force ar that the Iranian nation cannot
nd bullying. [passage omitted]

Today the position of
throughout the world, e the revolution is recognized
tries to turn public opiven though world propaganda
Today, the lies dissemin inion against this revolution.
the international level asated against this revolution at
fortunately, we feel that re of massive proportions but
and the meekness of the I the ideology of the revolution
of Islam and the revoluti Iranian nation and the godliness
ion will overcome enemy plots.

The enemy shows hostil
tion, but divine teachingsity toward the Islamic revolu-
protects this nation agains and divine succor and support
and will help it overcomst the hostility of our enemies,
blessing. It reveals itself ne enemy plots. This is God's
various stages of the r through your presence in the
beloved ones, your strug revolution, and through your
gles, and your self-sacrifice.

The Iranian nation shou
years for reconstruction uld regard future years as the
standing alongside our . We are firmly and strongly
world's loudspeakers pu revolutionary positions. The
Iranian nation has lost it t out the propaganda that the
of the revolution. This its faith and its trust in the goals
falseness of which is revea is a clear and manifest lie, the
Iranian nation. Your pre ealed through the actions of the
squares of all towns thro esence in this square and in the
roads and streets, the hu ughout the country, and in these
attached to their revolu ge gathering of people who are
revolution with all their tion, and who believe in their
being belies enemy propaganda.

Today, your presence in
gathering of believing such large numbers, this huge
today's ceremonies, whc and self-sacrificing people at
streets leading to this ether in this square or in the
nessed people's determir square—and I personally wit-
were walking toward this nation and enthusiasm as they
at the face of those who square—delivers a mighty blow
Iranian nation has lost wished to make it look as if the
nation fully believes in trust in its revolution. No, the
leader, its Islamic values its Islam, its revolution, its
lution. [shouts of approv s, and in the goals of this revo-
val]

World propaganda also tries to exaggerate shortages. Any shortages should be removed with the efforts of the people, with the cooperation of the people with national officials, and with the initiative of the officials of the country. They will then be removed. The Iranian nation is a talented, great, and deserving nation, and the country is a rich country. We have a talented, capable, and interested people; capable and enthusiastic officials; a prosperous land. Most certainly the face of life in this country will change. However, there is need for effort, time, cooperation, and sincerity; and these are things which our nation has so far manifested, and in the future, too—God willing—it will be so.

The goals of the revolution are not something our nation will surrender. In our world policy we have maintained and will continue to maintain our strong and independent position of neither East nor West. We will never give in to the bullying of big powers. We are a nation with a profound and great culture, a great nation, a brave nation. It was not the enemies and world powers and governments who created this great historic opportunity for this nation: It was this nation itself and its heroic actions. It was this nation, and its courage and self-sacrifice. With its faith and its power this nation succeeded in destroying the tyrant and the oppressor, and in establishing its desired government and Islamic system. This nation along will defend it.

Of course, under no circumstances are we hostile to the nations of the world and to various governments. If someone thinks that neither East nor West means that we should sever our relations and turn our backs on all countries and governments, then this is false reasoning. We are prepared to have friendly, mutual, and balanced relations with all countries and all governments, so long as they do not conspire against us, are not hostile to us, and as long as they properly recognize the rights of the Iranian nation and its nature and character—except for a few known governments, with whom we are under no circumtances ready to have relations because they are illegitimate governments or have a long history of conspiracy against the Iranian nation.

The Iranian nation in its relations with other nations, and the system of the Islamic Republic in its relations with other governments, on the stage of world politics acts from the position of a powerful government, a people's government, a government which depends on the public opinion of its nation and on the will of the nation.

For the sake of the reconstruction of this vast country and for the sake of repairing the damage we are prepared to accept the participation of friends and governments who will deal with us and have discussions with us without any expansionist and colonialist motives. We have announced this too.

Of course, our nation is a nation with creative abilities. We have very good human resources. Our nation is ready for work. There are active minds in this nation and they are capable. However, there is no nation which is not reliant on other nations and there is no country which is not reliant upon the cooperation of other countries. With complete independence, with the true character of a great and powerful country, God willing, we will start the reconstruction of our country.

Regarding reconstruction, for the information of the Iranian nation I should say that the reconstruction of the country started from the very first weeks after the end of the war and start of the cease-fire. Great efforts and extensive activities have been made in all those areas that were damaged; and a number of individuals, officials, executives, and workers are busy reconstructing the damaged areas lovingly and enthusiastically. However, the damage is very extensive; there is a great deal of destruction. It is not possible for the government and the officials to repair all that damage in a short time.

In addition to the destruction caused by the war, we are also faced with all the damage inflicted during the long reign of the satanic regime. This is a country whose agriculture was deliberately destroyed, where they made use of an imported assembly industry instead of a true, independent industry; where instead of work they talked and engaged in propaganda for many long years. The reconstruction of the aftermath of all that destruction, all that ill-judgment, and all that treason in many cases is a fundamental and serious matter.

In the past 10 years many important steps have been taken, particularly in the villages, in the poor and remote areas of this country. However, the face of this country will change if these efforts continue and if all the capabilities of the people are used and if all the assets of this country are used in the service of the aspirations of this country. God willing, with complete dedication, with the efforts of all strata of the people, after a short time, these assets, these capabilities, the great potential which exists in the country will manifest themselves; and the face of the country will become one which is in keeping with the revolution and with Islamic ideals.

We hope that day is not too distant. The point that I would like to stress the most is that of general popular cooperation with the country's officials and managers. You have maintained revolutionary motivation throughout these 10 years, and you should carry on in the same way. Beware, brothers and sisters, you, the great nation of Iran, that construction is a great crusade. They [as heard] imposed the war on us so as to prevent us from the task of construction. We should work in the fields of construction with the same spirit that drove us to the fields of battle.

Any initiative taken by the intellectuals, managers, workers, farmers, and those who are endowed with financial capabilities toward the construction of the country is considered a great crusade in the divine path. The next decade has aptly been named as the decade of construction. [passage omitted] We should spend the next decade

trying to compensate for the past regime's destructions. We have everything we need to carry out this task. We have a competent, motivated, and faithful nation. We have dedicated officials and a flourishing nation. The divine blessing is on a nation who possess faith. The Iranian nation should strive to maintain this unity of word, this unprecedented solidarity.

The enemy is trying in vain to pretend that there is discord and a power struggle in Iran. A number of those people whose only aim is to seek power and gain control of the government—from countries where spirituality holds no domain—compare the Iranian nation and the Islamic revolutionary officials to themselves. There is no power struggle between the officials in Iran, and what is said in foreign propaganda is pure mendacity. The country's officials are engaged in their tasks, striving with affection for the revolution, Islam, and each other, and with full cooperation.

It is possible that there may be differences in opinion and taste between individuals, officials, and delegates. Mankind can never be without such differences. But there exists nothing that can be described as a power struggle in this country. This is something from which the Western countries and nations, arrogant governments, and those governments who are far from spirituality, suffer. They compare the Iranian nation with themselves. We live under the shadow of the Koran. We are the disciples of the leader of a revolution, who is a pious and devout person, a servant of God, a great, lofty, and harmonious spirit. The officials of the Islamic Republic—praise be to God—are exempt from such accusations as that of fighting to gain power or seeking opportunities, just as the Iranian nation has preserved its uniformity throughout the 10 years.

According to global propaganda, the excitement and motivation of the people have ended. I categorically deny and refute this claim. When life is put on its normal and routine path in a country, one need only look for people's excitement and motivation in this great gathering. The excitement of the people is seen and witnessed during times such as in the last months of the war, when with one sign from the leader of the revolution calling on people to defend the country, the battlefronts were filled with groups of volunteers, which astonished everyone.

This is how people's excitement is depicted after 10 years, and I do not believe that any other country or people can show such faith, motivation, and sincerity in realizing their aspirations. I see a very bright future. Brothers and sisters, try to broaden your horizons through work, effort, unity, and faith, all of which—praise to be God—exists in the Iranian nation. The country's officials also regard themselves as agents who must serve people. They exist only to serve these people.

At the end of my address I would like to point out something to the Iranian nation and all strata, specifically to government officials and employees: If they want all tasks to be carried out correctly, if they want the country's aspirations, which are the same as that of the people, to be realized, they should all consider it their duty to adhere to the law. Let us make the next 10 years, years in which adherence to the law becomes a natural characteristic of our nation.

In the past, when the satanic powers ruled over this country, people chose to ignore the laws, as the laws were not popular laws [qavanin-e mardomi]. But today, the Islamic Republic's laws are rules which are indispensible. They are laws which have been legislated by experts and the representatives of the people themselves, and according to divine decrees. Adherence to them is necessary and obligatory.

Montazeri on Revolution's Past Mistakes, Future

LD1202104389 Tehran IRNA in English 0957 GMT 12 Feb 89

[By Khosrow Soltani]

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 12, IRNA—As Iranians were celebrating the 10th anniversary of their Islamic revolution Saturday, a prominent religious leader called on the Islamic Republic officials to "make up for the past mistakes" and work to create an "open society" in the real sense of the word.

"Let's see what slogans we gave (over the past ten years) that made us so isolated in the world and turned the people pessimistic towards us," remarked Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, designate leader of the revolution.

"Let's see what happened to all the unity, coordination, devotion, etc. that we enjoyed (at the beginning of the revolution) and whether we did a good job during the war or rather the enemies who imposed the war on us, emerged victorious.

"Let's count how many forces did we lose, how many towns were destroyed... and then repent after realising that we made these mistakes. Social and political mistakes too must be remorsed for. To admit a sin is remorse and it is a must for us to notify each other of our mistakes.

"Have we succeeded in keeping up the revolution, in accomplishing its goals, and in fulfilling the promises we have given the people?" he asked.

Ayatollah Montazeri made the remarks in a gathering of people in the holy city of Qom on the occasion of the first decade of the Islamic revolution.

"On many occasions we showed obstinacy, shouted slogans and frightened the world. The people of the world thought our only task here in Iran was to kill," regretted the ayatollah who on a number of occasions has voiced criticism of the government and the state of affairs in the country in recent years.

"One celebration is to keep the people uninformed and in ignorance, and another is to acknowledge our mistakes and invite (Iranian) forces from inside and outside for the country's reconstruction.

"If we care for Islam, the revolution and the country and want the ideals of the revolution be safeguarded, we must create coordination, optimism and confidence among the people, just like the beginning of the revolution... prisons must be emptied and forces mobilized for reconstruction."

The future leader of the revolution also lauded the general amnesty granted by Imam Khomeyni to members of political grouplets, most of whom belong to the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization.

"To fill the prisons would not heal any wounds," he pointed, adding that "as has been stressed in the message of the leader, the pardoned prisoners must be treated humanely, provided jobs and allowed entry to universities."

Imam Khomeyni on Wednesday granted a general amnesty to all members of counterrevolutionary grouplets in Iranian jails, excluding 900 charged with committing major crimes.

The order came following a plea by Minister of (Security) Information Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad mohammadi Reyshahri who said in a letter to the imam that these groups "no longer constitute a threat to the revoltuion."

"...I hope the respected families of these prisoners will advise their children not to take actions which would cause renewed discomfort for themselves and for their relatives," the imam said in his amnesty order issued on the occasion of the Ten Day Dawn celebrations.

Several hundred of the pardoned prisoners joined their families Saturday coinciding with nationwide celebrations heralding the first decade of the Islamic revolution.

Ayatollah Montazeri warned against attempts to reject these newly returned members of the society saying that "in that case they would again be absorbed by the enemies."

"Put aside past mistakes and harsh treatments. Extremisms are to our detriment. Instead try to treat (them) with affection and Islamic behavior. Most of these people can be absorbed in the society," Ayatollah Montazeri advised officials.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he urged the print and broadcast media to avoid monopoly and dedication to "a particular (political) line." The media, he stressed, belong to the entire nation and "it is senseless for two or three people to decide for all."

"When my statements as a theologian sympathizer to the revolution are censored let alone others whose voices can be more easily suppressed," he complained. [sentence as received]

He also called on officials to allow more imports in order to meet people's demand. Except for items prohibited under Islam such as alcoholic beverages and means of debauchery, he said, the ban on other goods must be lifted.

The ayatollah also urged relevant authorities to pave the way for the return of "nearly four million" Iranians abroad "who long to come to Iran but are scared."

"I had said four years ago that you should not pump information out (of Iranians returning home) at the airport. Our embassies and consulates abroad must study their cases and guide those who would like to return to the country on the condition that they could go home directly from the airport. You don't have to greet them. There are many forces who can come here and generate work. I have a list of about 4,000 physicians in the United States, including 3,000 with good posts, who would like to return and serve the country. Their return would bring us security, comfort and courage."

More on Montazeri Remarks

LD1202143189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] On the occasion of the holy day of 11 February, and the 10th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran, various strata of the people met Grand Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday. We begin with a report on his excellency's speech.

According to the Central News Unit, the deputy leader congratulated the Muslim and ever present on the scene Iranian nation for the 2d decade of the Islamic revolution and noted the greatness of the revolution. As a result of the efforts of all classes of society, he said the Islamic revolution in Iran has succeeded. It was such a great revolution that the world, despite all its programs and forecasts, could not believe such a change took place.

It was not possible for the world to understand that the 2,500-year-old monarchy, that enjoyed the support of East and West and had a good economy based on oil and other national resources, would collapse in the face of a popular revolution. However, national faith and unity, along with the decisive and aware leadership of the leader of the revolution, spoiled all the preconceived ideas of the superpowers and overthrew the monarchy.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri added: The Islamic revolution of Iran was a great development that shook the world, creating sucha commotion that the sound of the revolution reach the farthest corner of the earth. Noting a story about his holiness Imam Sadeq, peace be upon him, the deputy leader stated the need to review and

accountnt for past performance and stated that it is necessary for all officials of the country to review past deeds.
He added: The fact that everyone must review their own actions and compensate for their past mistakes must be in the minds of people and of officials. By reviewing past actions and identifying shortcomings and errors, such shortcomings and mistakes should be eradicated. We must repent for our political mistakes.

He added: Now that we are on the eve of the 2d decade of the Islamic revolution it is a good idea to review our work during the past decade and to evaluate what we have done and what we are going to do. It is not sufficient to fool ourselves with amusing programs, and praise ourselves and each other.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri noted: When the British Royal Institute holds a seminar in London to review the Iranian revolution and looks at the achievements of the revolution during the past decade, evaluating the blows the revolution has dealt against the interests of the superpowers as well as ways of combating the revolution, it is a pity for us to limit ourselves to slogans. [as heard] We must rekindle the spirit and slogans of the revolution and try to resurrect the unity, coordination, sacrifice, and resistance of the days of the victory of the revolution.

The deputy leader said he did not say we should not celebrate the 1st decade of the revolution; he said we should avoid empty celebrations and deceptive shows.

He added: Honoring the anniversary of the victory of the revolution and celebrations that include a review of the past and plans for the future are very worthy. On the 10th anniversary of the revolution, a celebration that includes a review of our accomplishments, how far we have implemented the slogans of the revolution, and reached its goals is only logical. We must learn from past mistakes, because some of our past slogans turned out to be mistakes. Many slogans were impossible to carry out and thus it created a situation in which foreigners were afraid to come to Iran and even Iranians living abroad, most of whom were not enemies of the revolution and wanted to come to Iran, were afraid to return home.

Continuing his speech, the deputy leader noted that instead of boasting about the past and chanting slogans about it, we must think of compensating for past mistakes. We were obstinate in many areas and did not pay any attention to the guidance and advice of the wise. However, now is the time to put aside selfishness, obstinacy, ignoring the advice of the wise, blaming others, making large mistakes, and bypassing various forces, and turn society into one where anyone can state their views.

Noting the need for the media to have the freeedom to reflect the views of the people, the deputy leader added: The press, radio, and television must not have one particular policy and become a monopoly in the hands of a few. If this is the case, then we would have a situation where they even censor the remarks of one such as I, a humble seminarian who has been with the people and the Islamic revolution since its inception. Given such a case it is clear what the condition of the people is. Therefore, it is necessary for the people and all those who have constructive criticism to be able to voice it freely because one of the most fundamental slogans of the people during the revolution was independence, freedom, and the Islamic Republic. One of the meanings of freedom is the ability to voice various views within the society.

In another part of his speech, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri praised the action taken by the imam of the ummah to pardon the imprisoned members of minigroups and added: The recent action by the leader of the Islamic revolution in pardoning minigroup members is very worthy. More important than this is the attention that the officials should give to his holiness the imam's remarks and their humane and Islamic attitude toward the pardoned prisoners. They need to be absorbed into society, into the universities, and into all scientific, economic, and industrial centers after being released. Their past mistakes should be forgotten and prejudices must be put aside because such bias has been harmful to the country. The imam's decree must not fail and past mistakes and bias must not be repeated.

Stressing the need for the absorption of specialist forces both at home and abroad and guiding them toward the path of reconstruction of society, the deputy leader added: Many of those living abroad who have specialized knowledge and resources can benefit the future of the country. It is necessary to absorb these people and use their capabilities in the reconstruction program. In order to ease the return of Iranians living abroad who sincerely wish to serve the country, the Embassies of the Islamic Republic in various countries must issue special identity cards for them following an investigation of their past. Therefore, problems that people faced in the past when they wished to return can be avoided.

Stressing the need for the transformation of the management of the country, he noted: It is necessary to invite those who have gone into seclusion to return to work and thus transform the management of the country, because the first step in the basic reconstruction of the country is to reconstruct the management level and to invite the participation of active forces both at home and abroad. Now we must confess to the mistakes of the past and mobilize the people to compensate for the past mistakes and reconstruct the country. We must attract those who have an interest in the country and the revolution and rekindle the unity and coordination of the era of the revolution in order to develop the country.

He noted: We should not stop at giving promises about freedom of speech and freedom for political parties. Our behavior and actions should be such that all the devoted revolutionaries who have ideas can state them in the interest of the revolution and for the development of the

country without fear of persecution. Unfortunately, we see good people who are afraid of persecution; they cannot breath in peace. This is wrong. You should work in such a way so that people really believe that we want to grant freedoms.

Remember how His Holiness Imam 'Ali, blessings be upon him, dealt with Ibn-e Kavva from the rejectionists, who was chanting against him in the mosque using the Koran. They were going to arrest him but his holiness objected, saying that prisons should not be filled. Another example is the treatment of Malik ibn-e 'Awf, head of the Havazin tribe, who had urged several thousand to start an armed insurrection and then escaped to Sadiq. His holiness sent him a message that he was pardoned, should return to his home, family, and wealth, and should continue to lead his tribe. He even gave him 100 camels.

The deputy leader stressed the need to use domestic resources in the reconstruction of the country and noted: Even though Japan was destroyed, after the war it stood on its own feet and did not rely on others. Using its abilities and capabilities, it rebuilt itself and now has exceeded the United States in its industries.

In conclusion, the deputy leader prayed for long life for the imam of the ummah and for the glory of Islam and Muslims around the world.

TEHRAN TIMES Lauds Montazeri's Criticism

LD1302065189 Tehran IRNA in English 0648 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES Monday lauded recent remarks by Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, designate successor of Imam Khomeyni, made on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution Saturday.

Giving an evaluation of the past decade, the paper said time was spent on slogans instead of action. Being engaged in trivial matters, gave way to public dissent rather than maintaining their vigilance, it added.

The editorial warned that if this trend and attitude continued to prevail, the revolution will have to back up from its objectives.

According to the paper, the most serious peril to the February 1979 Islamic revolution is "attempts at offering management cadres, overlooking shortcomings and brushing aside and virtually blocking constructive criticism."

"A more critical problem, however, is the absence of an approach, based on principles, to ayatollah Montazeri's realistic standpoints. This failure stems from yet another problem of apprehending dimensions, i.e. the multipilicity of decision-making centers in the country."

He said that it was unfortunate that no practical measures have been taken to execute the ayatollah's guidelines. "This is a cause for ample regret," it said.

The paper concluded that there was still time to correct the past mistakes because the country still enjoyed massive resources.

Musavi-Ardabili Speaks at Rally in Yazd

LD1102180489 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Yazd, Feb. 11, IRNA—"Preserve your revolutionary spirit until all Islamic laws are enforced and enemies are overpowered" Chief Justice Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili called on Iranian Muslims today.

"Do not forget that the enemy still has a foothold on our soil, our youths in captivity and parts of our country plagued by death merchants while inside economic terrorists are bleeding our deprived people white," he added.

"Our duty will not be finished unless we have overcome all these problems," Musavi-Ardabili told a multitudinous group of cheering people at the end of massive rally in this eastern provincial capital marking the first decade of the Islamic revolution's victory.

He said Iranian officials have many things to do yet, for example, "they should rebuild the ruins of the Iraqi war and make good on past mistakes," Musavi-Ardabili concluded.

Resolution Urges Continued Unity, Solidarity

LD1102134689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Feb 89

["Summary" of resolution passed by members of the 11 February march in Tehran organized to mark the 10th anniverary of Ayatollah Khomeyni's return from exile]

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the resolution stresses the importance of strict adherence to Imam Khomeyni's decrees and guidance as the only way to the realization of God's decrees and to the salvation of the deprived people of the world. It points out that the inspiring and guiding presence of the great committed and militant 'ulema of Islam is constructive for the continuation of the revolution, and it honors the effective role of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in ihe Islamic revolution. It calls on all officials to implement closely his constructive views in the 2d decade of the revolution, which has been named the decade of reconstruction.

The resolution also praised the martyrs, the disabled, the MIA's and POW's, and names the 1st decade of the revolution the decade of the establishment of the Islamic

Republic's sovereignty and the Islamic revolution's global attributes. It names the 2d decade of the revolution the decade for reconstruction and reaching self-sufficiency in every aspect, while maintaining Islamic values and principles.

In another part, the resolution stresses the fact that the principal reason for the victory of the revolution, besides the blessed presence of the leadership, is unity of expression and solidarity between all classes. The resolution calls on all earnest followers of the imam and supporters of the revolution to pave the way for unity and solidarity between the country's ideological factions and to insure the revolution against the conspiracies of Eastern and Western arrogance and their traitorous mercenaries inside the country.

Pointing out the importance and necessity of making all-around plans, the resolution stresses the importance of mobilizing the resources and preserving the principle of not relying on foreigners and attaining independence in every aspect. The resolution stresses that the Hezbollahi ummah will safeguard our independence and freedom from arrogance domination at any cost and will guard the principles of the revolution and preserve them against all manifestations of corruption and shameful suggestions of the Eastern and Western cultures.

The resolution reiterates the revolution's "Neither East nor West" principle and welcomes the establishment of friendly ties with all countries except illegitimate regimes such as the usurper Israel, South Africa, and the United States. It expresses its pride that the Islamic revolution is the largest power in the Islamic world and the protector of the world oppressed, and supports the justice-seeking struggles of Muslim and oppressed nations of the world.

Finally, regarding the implementation of all the articles of Security Council Resolution 598 and the establishment of ever-lasting peace, the resolution states: The Islamic Republic of Iran will not tolerate the presence of occupying forces even on 1 inch of our Islamic homeland.

First Pardoned Prisoners To Be Freed 11 Feb

LD1002164389 Tehran IRNA in English 1626 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 10, IRNA—The first group of recently-pardoned members of anti-revolutinary grouplets will be released on Saturday, the director of Prisons Administration of Tehran, Mr. Forutan [name as received], told visiting foreign guests Friday.

The founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeyni Wednesday declared a general amnesty for counterrevolutionaries amid celebrations marking the tenth anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

Foreign guests visiting Iran to participate in the celebrations, paid a three-hour visit to the Evin Prison in northern Tehran Friday and chatted with prisoners and discussed the jail conditions with Mr Forutan.

The imprisoned counterrevolutionaries were allowed a weekly visit by their spouses, and those engaged in workshops earned rials 2,000 (about 28 dlrs) per day, he told the foreign visitors.

The director of the London-based Islamic Studies Center, Mr. Abdullah Sodagar, said before leaving for Tehran he had informed Amnesty International that he would visit the Evin prison.

But he said Amnesty officials told him it was impossible that Iranian authorities would permit him to visit the jail.

On Friday a group of pardoned counterrevolutionaries visited an exhibition on achievements of the Islamic revolution and a pavilion of the Information Ministry here.

Imam Khomeyni urged state officials to provide suitable jobs for the pardoned prisoners.

The Ten-Day Dawn celebrations will culminate Saturday with the holding of a massive parade.

230 Released From Evin Prison

LD1102135289 Tehran IRNA in English 1233 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA—Some 230 members of anti-revolutionary groups were released from Evin Prison today under a general amnesty granted by the founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeyni amid celebrations marking the tenth anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

An Information Ministry source told IRNA most of the released prisoners had been sentenced to death or life imprisonment for committing serious crimes.

On February 8, the founder of the Islamic Republic agreed to a request by Information [Intelligence] Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri to grant general amnesty to all arrested members of counter-revolutionary organizations.

In his response the imam said "I agree with your proposal on granting general amnesty to prisoners of grouplets, and I hope the respected families of these prisoners will advise their children not to take actions which would cause renewed discomfort for themselves and for their relatives."

The amnesty would exclude 900 members of counterrevolutionary grouplets who have confessed to "very serious crimes and mischiefs."

After their release the prisoners, including 34 women, accompanied by their families joined a mass rally in Azadi (Freedom) Square Saturday morning to mark the first decade of the victory of the Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

100 Released from Tabriz Jails

LD1102160189 Tehran IRNA in English 1546 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Tabriz, Feb. 11, IRNA—One hundred more repentent members of terrorist groups were released ..om prisons in this northwestern provincial capital Saturday following the general amnesty approved by founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni.

The release coincided with February 11, the 10th anniverary of the Islamic revolution's victory.

On February 8, Imam Khomeyni agreed to a plea by Minister of Information Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri to grant general amnesty for imprisoned members of anti-revolutionary groups.

The amnesty now in force excludes 900 hard-core criminals who are in prison for capital crimes.

Some 230 prisoners were released from Evin Prison in Tehran today.

478 Prisoners Freed 11, 12 Feb

LD1202215389 Tehran IRNA in English 2140 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 12, IRNA—On Saturday and Sunday tens of prisoners in various cities were released on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, and upon recommendation of Information Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri and approval of Imam Khomeyni. Except for 900 prisoners who did not qualify for amnesty the rest have been freed.

On Saturday and Sunday 478 prisoners and members of political grouplets were set free in Mashhad, Hamadan, Bandar-e 'Abbas, Shiraz, Arak, Saqqez, Sanandaj, Qa'emshahr and Sari.

Imam Khomeyni has recommended that the freed prisoners be offered proper employment opportunities.

The imam's decree for amnesty applies to all members of outlawed political parties who did not engage in assassination attempts or similar warlike operations against the Islamic government.

More prisoners are to be freed later in the week.

Majlis Speaker Says Amnesty Shows 'Stability'

LD1302102489 Tehran IRNA in English 1017 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsajani has described the recent general amnesty granted to counterrevolutionary members of political groups as a "sign of the stability of the revolution, the preserverance of the people, and the leniency of the leader."

Speaking at the open session of the Majlis this morning, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is also acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, said "We hope they (the pardoned prisoners) would not take advantage of tis amnesty and will make up for their past."

Upon an order by Imam Khomeyni last week all jailed members of political grouplets were pardoned on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution. Hundreds of them have so far been released and joined their families.

The amnesty came following a request by (security) Information Minister Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri who in a letter to Imam Khomeyni said these people no more constituted a threat to the Islamic revolution. The pardon however does not include 900 opponents involved in capital crimes.

"We expect the relevant authorities to take the imam's advice seriously and try towards absorbing these people and for their employment, and avoid unnecessary toughness," the speaker said in his remarks today.

On Saturday's [11 February] massive nationwide rallies to mark the tenth decade of the Islamic revolution, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said "It is a unique characteristic of the Islamic revolution that despite the misleading propaganda and discouraging nagging heard from various tribunes, and also in spite of the shortages and irrational high prices, the people poured into the streets."

"The people have repeatedly shown that they are ready, with their high political maturity and knowledge, to join the country's administration in the best possible manner," he remarked.

"The people know very well that the beloved imam as well as all other officials are working for a much better administration of the state and they also know the real reason for the present shortages was the war and the mischief of the enemies."

Majlis Speaker Comments on Support for Revolution

LD1102211689 Tehran IRNA in English 1955 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA—Iran's Muslim people support the Islamic revolution and its leadership as was evident in their massive presence in Saturday's nationwide rallies.

Addressing foreign guests of the Islamic Republic, Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: "You witnessed our people's presence in the streets of Tehran. It was the same in all other towns and villages across our country."

"These people are all supporters of the Islamic revolution and its leadership," Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the guests, here to participate in celebrations which started to mark the first decade of the Islamic revolution.

On the war, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is also acting Armed Forces commander-in-chief, said the war did not end because of military pressure. "Although we have not yet disclosed why we ended the war, one reason was that they were trying to misportray us as a warmongers before world public opinion," he added.

Describing construction activities carried out during the war as a "miraculous" Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the result of post-war reconstruction would be a more important miracle "which will take place with God's grace."

Interviewed on Anniversary

LD1202101789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0745 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Interview with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces and Majlis speaker, by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Greetings and congratulations on the holy 10 days marking the anniversary of the Islamic revolution, dear listeners, particularly the border guards of Islamic Iran. We had the opportunity to be in the presence of His Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the honorable Majlis speaker and acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Thank you very much for giving us a few minutes of your time. Please let us know how you evaluate the military and defense capability of the country 10 years after the victory of the Islamic revolution and despite the imposed war.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With 8 years of war behind us, during which time we stood on our own feet and confronted world arrogance all alone, we learned many things. We learned how to fight on our own, use our own resources, and defend our rights in the field of action. We learned the methods of enemy aggression and the mystifying support given to the enemy of Islam by the world powers. I think that now our people, particularly our fighters and our military commanders in the Armed Forces, the Guards Corps, and the mobilization forces, have learned defensive tactics.

It has also been proved that Iran is invincible so long as it defends its revolution, no matter how many forces are amassed by our enemies. Fortunately, this period of growth in the military industries in the country and of training on the battlefields, both at the fronts and behind the lines, has so raised the morale of our forces that now they believe in themselves. They have succeeded in manufacturing the equipment they need for their defense.

From the viewpoint of legitimacy, which is the main factor in maintaining high morale for defense—by recognizing our enemies in the cooperation of Western and Eastern arrogant powers and of the reactionaries and Zionism behind Saddam against the Islamic Republic—it was made very clear to all of us that we are defending the truth. This is a source of strength and high morale for defense, because we have no doubt that we are defending the truth.

Regarding trained manpower, we are at a very good level, thanks be to God. Millions of people have received training, and millions of others have fought at the fronts and learned fighting techniques there. Understanding the enemy, understanding the terrain, understanding weapons, producing weapons are all elements which have been effective in strengthening the front of truth, and thanks be to God, we possess all these at a satisfactory level.

After accepting the resolution and the establishment of a cease-fire at the fronts, we gained an opportunity to review our training, to study once again the course of past battles, to eliminate weak points whose removal was difficult during the course of the war, to prepare necessary resources for another probable confrontation, to repair those items needing repair and maintenance, to place our political relations in a more favorable situation compared to the past. On the whole, today the preparedness of the Islamic Republic in defense is at a much higher level compared with last year or any other time.

I hope that the war will not be resumed. We do not want this and we shall use all our capabilities to ensure that the war is not resumed. Of course, we have a red line [as heard] here, namely the interests of the Islamic Republic and our rights at the borders, including the 1975 Algiers accord. For us only that can be the basis of peace. If we can maintain our path and if they implement the resolution as was intended and as both sides agreed on, we will try to ensure that the war is not resumed. Of course, we will maintain our preparedness. God willing, war will not be resumed, but if it does start again we should engage in defense with greater preparedness.

[Correspondent] What is our country's stance vis-a-vis those who obstruct the path of peace? Also, what is to become of our intrepid border guards?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have never entertained the hope that those obstructionists will ever become instruments of peace. Those who imposed the war on us, hatched plots and distinct conspiracies. They are certainly not in favor of a durable peace in the region, even though they may favor a cease-fire and this neither war

nor peace condition. We should never rely on them. Our only means of acquiring peace lies in our strength. The enemy should learn that the resumption of war will once again bring about years of hardship.

The same dangers which they were witness to for years, and the possibility of their recurrence, will prevent them from violating the frontiers. They once, of course, tried their luck, and it is possible that they may once again be deluded or forced. They may once again be incited. Therefore, we should not feel certain that there will not be another incident. We should not rely on the others either. We should only rely on ourselves and remain strong. If we remain strong, the enemy will not embark on a new initiative.

As for our combatants, I am glad to have been granted the opportunity to speak to them. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah Confers With Officials on Hostages

NC1102083789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Feb (MENA)—Citing what it describes as informed sources, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH reports that Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, spiritual guide of Hizballah in Lebanon, is currently holding talks with Iranian officials in Tehran, including including Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, on the issue of the hostages in Lebanon.

These sources say that the talks focus on a plan under which the foreign hostages will be released Gradually and in a way that will be satisfactory to Iran's interests.

Discusses Release of Hostages

JN1202165289 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 11 Feb 89 p 1

[By Muhammad 'Anan]

[Excerpt] Beirut—AL-SIYASAH has learned from reliable sources that the talks that Hizballah spiritual leader Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah is currently holding in Tehran focus on the questions of Palestine and the hostages held in Lebanon.

AL-SIYASAH sources say that the talks, which included contacts with a number of high ranking Iranian officials including President 'Ali Khamene'i, have reached a positive point.

The sources add that Fadlallah's talks centered on a program according to which Western hostages in Lebanon are released gradually and in a way that satisfies Iran and maintains its interests. It is to be noted that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad recently stressed to a U.S. Congressional delegation with which he met that Syria is doing its best to end the issue of the foreign hostages. [passage omitted]

Received by Montazeri

LD1302114189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadhlallah, one of the Lebanese combatant 'ulema, met Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom yesterday and spoke to him above various Lebanese issues.

Musavi Dismisses Human Rights Abuses Allegations

LD1102152789 Tehran IRNA in English 1447 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Kerman, Feb. 11, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi today brushing aside global arrogance's alegations of human rights abuses in Iran said "How can the Iranian nation which wants to be free and independent oppose human rights?"

"Does it make sense that a country standing on its own feet and trying to liberate other world peoples from oppression be opposed to human rights? How come the criminal U.S. has become a defender and it is we who are said to be against human rights?" Musavi asked

On an inspection tour of this southeastern province, the premier noted "It is strange indeed, that Islamic Iran which is ridding its villagers of the yoke of hated feudal landlords is being branded as opposed to human rights."

On the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution's triumph, a large gathering of local people heard Musavi vow that Iran will stand steadfast to its Islamic values and will never surrender.

Montazeri Meets With Study Center Officials

LD1002173489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Officials of some 60 Islamic and political study centers in Qom met the deputy leader yesterday afternoon. [passage omitted]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: Islamic ideology is receiving more and more attention today, thanks to the Islamic revolution of Iran. The credibility of the Islamic revolution is greater abroad than it is inside the country. Today Islamic ideology has proved that it can govern society from political, economic, and other aspects.

However, as the Islamic jurisconsults and leaders were not involved in government in the past and did not think that one day the government would be in their hands, they studied economics, politics, and sociology less and attached more importance to religious issues. The responsibility for the research and analysis of issues required today belongs to scientists and scholars. Serious steps should be taken in that respect. [passage omitted]

Tehran Radio Comments on Kuwait-Iraq Relations

LD1202145389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1113 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Political commentary]

[Excerpts] The outcome of the relatively long visit of Kuwait's heir apparent to Iraq could provide a clearer perspective about the future prospects of relations between the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and the Iraqi regime. Of course, there have been many contradictory reports about the talks between Kuwaiti officials and the Iraq's leaders.

The KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY [KUNA] has announced that border differences between the two countries is an important issue which will be discussed in Baghdad. However, the Kuwaiti propaganda minister [as heard] has said that this issue is not one of the topics included in the current talks in Baghdad and that it may only be discussed if the Iraqi regime shows an interest in discussing it.

At the moment, there are no more reports on whether or not territorial differences between Iraq and Kuwait have been discussed. However, the psychological warfare waged by the Iraqi Government press regarding the territorial differences existing between the two countries shows the sensitivity of the issue in the current talks in Baghdad. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi-imposed war against Iran reduced these differences to the point that the GCC member countries, including Kuwait, were among the main financial supporters of the Iraqi regime in the imposed war. The collaboration of the Kuwaiti regime with Iraq assumed such proportions that there was even a serious danger of involving that country in the imposed war.

However, with the establishment of the cease-fire and the return of relative security to the Persian Gulf region, new conditions now exist in the region and new positions have been taken which will entail clear consequences for regional relations and the nature of regional cooperation. The Kuwaitis, who have border disputes with the Iraqi regime, hope that the Iraqi regime, grateful for Kuwait's support, will show greater flexibility on this issue and will take fundamental steps to solve border disputes.

Although such expectations seem natural enough, they will not be easily accepted by the Iraqi regime because the Iraqi regime claims that its war against Iran prevented the spread of the Islamic revolution and that this has been in fact, a way of defending all the regional regimes. Iraq's state-controlled press has strongly criticized the fact that the amir of Kuwait did not go to Baghdad to take part in victory celebrations—it was expected that he would attend them, not that he would send his heir apparent at this time for the sake of a domestic issue.

The Iraqi regime claims that Kuwait should have helped the Iraqi Government during the imposed war, not that it should only look at its support for the Iraqi regime. [sentence as heard]

That such issues in the two countries' relations are raised is due in the first instance, to the establishment of a cease-fire in the imposed war, which has influenced the level and type of cooperation between Iraq and other GCC member countries, simultaneously with the return of regional security. Many issues such as commercial and economic cooperation, or Iraq's use of Kuwait's airspace and that of its neighboring countries, should be resolved within the context of the new situation which is due to the atmosphere of peace and security in the Persian Gulf.

On the other hand, the GCC country leaders have always been aware of the danger that the end of the imposed war could once again bring up old issues again or could even lead to new problems in the relations between those countries and the Iraqi regime. Therefore, the issue of territorial differences between Iraq and Kuwait and Iraq's method of dealing with this problem could be an indication of that country's goodwill in solving ancient disputes and an indication of future cooperation and relations.

Velayati, Iraqi Foreign Minister Meet at UN

LD1002213489 Tehran IRNA in English 2125 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 10, IRNA—The foreign minister of Iran, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz sat for peace talks at the UN in New York Friday with the UN secretary-general, Javier Perez de Cuellar attending. Their talks are the fourth of their kind since Iran in last July accepted the UN Security Council Resolution 598 which provides for a peaceful settlement of the Iraq-Iran war.

In a meeting with Velayati earlier in the day, the UN secretary general assured him that the resolution is a binding document and that Iraq's return to internationally-recognized borders is a must not only on the basis of the resolution itself but also with respect to the UN Charter and other international principles.

The Iranian foreign minister reminded the UN secretary general that Iraq had disregarded the Resolution 924 times since the latter accepted the UN document last summer.

Javier Perez de Cuellar also praised the Islamic Republic for unilaterally freeing 260 ailing and wounded Iraqi war prisoners on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic revolution.

Talks To Resume 'Next Month'

LD1102072089 Tehran IRNA in English 0716 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA—The foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq have responded positively to a proposal by the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to resume peace talks in New York next month.

Meanwhile, U.N. officials will start preparatory talks with representatives of the two sides later this month.

"The talks will be conducted at a location not far from this United Nations Headquarters," announced a statement issued to reporters in New York on Friday by the secretary general.

According to another report published by the Public Relations Department of the Foreign Ministry here today, the two foreign ministers held a face-to-face meeting with the U.N. chief at the U.N. Headquarters in New York Friday evening to discuss ways to revive efforts to achieve the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598.

During the meeting, the report said, the U.N. secretary general had underlined the need for a full and speedy implementation of Resolution 598 based on international rights, with a particular emphasis on the principle of respect for the territorial integrity and refraining from military occupation of territories.

It added that Perez de Cuellar had also reiterated the need for a troop withdrawal to the internationally-recognized borders.

Iraq still occupies more than 2,000 sq. kms of Iranian territory despite a call by the Security Council Resolution 598 to both sides to immediately withdraw their forces to the international boundaries.

Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati also stressed at Friday's meeting that the peace talks should take place within the framework of Resolution 598 and that arrangements be made so that the other party would not again block the progress of the negotiations by insisting on its previous stances.

Iran-Iraq peace talks began in Geneva on August 25, five days after a U.N.-mediated ceasefire went into effect between the two sides. Since then three rounds of negotiations have been held without producing any substantial progress. The main impediment comes from the Iraqi side over its insistance on dredging the Arvand River (or Shatt al-'Arab) as well as free access to the Persian Gulf, points not provisioned in the U.N. peace plan.

Iran however, does not totally reject the Iraqi demands but only says they could be considered at least after the enforcement of the first article of the resolution which after ceasefire, demands an immediate troop pull-back to the international borders, as well as exchange of all prisoners of war.

Minesweeping To Be Discussed

LD1102135789 Tehran IRNA in English 1318 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb. 11, IRNA—Experts from the 8-member Regional Organisation for the Protection of Marine Environment (ROPME) will hold a meeting here on Feb. 27 to discuss clearing of Persian Gulf waters from mines laid during the Iran-Iraq war.

According to the first deputy secretary-general of ROPME, Badriya al-Awadi, floating mines in the Persian Gulf still posed a threat to shipping and he said minesweepers will be deployed to collect them.

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman, which form the southern coastline of the Persian Gulf, are members of ROPME besides Iran, which lies in the northern coastline.

Sixty-four ships are bogged down in the Arvand River (Shatt al-'Arab) since the start of the 8-year Iraqi-imposed war, they cannot be pulled out till lasting peace to the Iran-Iraq conflict is achieved, Al-Awadi told Kuwaiţi dailies.

The issue of the dredging of Arvand River was dropped from the agenda of a previous ROPME meeting held in Kuwait in mid-January due to Iran's objection.

During its Jan. meeting, ROPME endorsed an Iranian proposal to implement an oceanography project in the Persian Gulf to preserve the region's rich and varied marine life.

The Iranian Navy cleared the Persian Gulf waters of some mines in two different operations last September and October.

The first stage of the mine-sweeping operation was carried out successfully in the northern part of the Persian Gulf clearing the territorial waters between Bandar Bushehr and Bandar-e Khomeyni during the "Sacred Defense Week" (Sept 22-28) marking the 8th anniversary of the Iraqi regime's invasion of Islamic Iran.

The second minesweeping operation was carried out on 5 October in the central part of the Persian Gulf in which dozens of helicopters, minesweepers, reconnaissance planes, missile launchers, frogmen and other naval units participated.

Commentary on Resolution 598

LD1202130889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1109 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Political commentary]

[Text] Following the suggestion of the UN secretary general, Iranian and Iraqi delegations—headed by the foreign ministers of the two countries—took part in a tripartite session with the participation of UN secretary general at UN Headquarters.

At the same time, in a separate meeting with the secretary general, our Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Velayati, while expressing the views of the Islamic Republic about the need for a speedy implementation of the Resolution 598, called for the preparation of definite agenda for talks.

In the tripartite meeting of the two countries' foreign ministers with the secretary general, the two sides agreed that talks between the two foreign ministers should be held at the beginning of Farvardin [beginning 21 March], in New York. It was also agreed that technical talks between delegations from both sides and the secretary general's representatives should be held near the beginning of Esfand [beginning 20 February] in order to pave the way for the discussions between the foreign ministers.

In addition, although no discussions were held regarding the details and the agenda of the meeting, and although discussions on methods for continuing the talks were given greater priority, nevertheless, in view of the deadline regarding the end of the peace-keeping forces' mission on the borders between the two countries and the incomplete implementation of the resolution—with the agreement of the two sides and the approval of the Security Council—the peace-keeping forces stay was extended for another 6 months.

After the end of the latest round of talks in Geneva in the month of Aban [beginning 23 October], the recent talks gave a new impetus to the talks. During this period, the release of a number of wounded and disabled POW's and agreement over the formation of a joint military commission under the chairmanship of the UN commander of the peace-keeping forces are among the new developments.

Baghdad's untimely [as heard] agreement to the formation of a joint military commission, which was proposed at the beginning of the cease-fire by the UN secretary general in order to implement the cease-fire correctly, once again revealed the true obstacle to implementing the resolution.

While Iran calls for the withdrawal of forces behind recognized international lines as the most immediate step for the establishment of peace and security—on the basis of the first paragraph of Resolution 598—the Iraqi regime with its repeated obstructionism has postponed the implementation of that clause. A glance at the resolution would reval that although the need for the withdrawal of forces to international borders has been emphasized, there is no mention of it in the issues raised by Iraq.

In this connection, the UN secretary general and the Security Council have repeatedly stressed the necessity for the complete and speedy implementation of Resolution 598 on the basis of international law, particularly respect for territorial integrity and the non-occupation of territories by military force, as well as the inviolability of recognized international borders. In this connection, the UN secretary general says: Not only on the basis of Resolution 598, but even on the basis of the UN Charter and international principles, withdrawal to international borders is necessary and should be implemented.

It seems that in view of the experience of earlier rounds of talks, the talks should be conducted within the context of Resolution 598 and should be held consecutively within that framework in a way that does not imply insistence on pre-announced positions. At the same time, these talks can produce satisfactory results only if they are held within a clear process which ensures the progress of talks and the complete implementation of Resolution 598.

Mo'ayeri Departs for Talks in Islamabad

LD1202054389 Tehran IRNA in English 0540 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 12, IRNA—Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, heading a political delegation, left for Islamabad this morning, carrying a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i to his Pakistani counterpart Ghulam Ishaq Khan linked with the Afghan issue.

Mo'ayeri will hold talks with other high-ranking Pakistani officials and Peshawar-based leaders of the mujahidin groups on the future of Afghanistan.

The Pakistani- and Iran-based Afghan mujahidin groups are currently holding discussions to create a "shura" (consultative council) aimed at forming an Islamic government after Soviet troops pull out from the country in the next few days.

Security Protocol With Pakistan Proposed

LD1202151189 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Semnan, Feb. 12, IRNA—The interior minister vowed to continue the anti-drug canmpaign until all narcotics rings are busted and "death merchants" punished.

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi also disclosed Saturday that political contacts were in progress with Pakistan for signing of a security protocol like that inked between Tehran and Ankara on January 30.

The interior minister was in Turkey last January where he inked two protocols with Turkish officials on fighting narcotics smuggling and terrorism.

Hoj. Mohtashemi underlined the need for cooperation between Iran and its neighbors in fighting terrorism.

The minister flew back to Tehran yesterday after two days in this provincial capital during which he inaugurated several industrial plants and attended celebrations marking the first decade of the Islamic revolution's victory.

Further on Larijani Visit to SFRY, Romania

For Yugoslav, Romanian, and Iranian reportage on the visit of Mohammad Javad Larijani, Iranian deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs, to Yugoslavia and Romania from 7 to 11 February, please see the Yugoslavia and Romania sections of the 10 and 11 February East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

First Sermon on Crime

LD1002213789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 10 feb 89

[First Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, at Tehran University on 10 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] My first sermon's topic today concerns the following: In their programs and policies, the Supreme Judicial Council and the judiciary have given priority to dealing with two very bad and inauspicious social issues. Other jobs take second and lesser priorities. The fist issue concerns the campaign against drugs—a very inauspicious social ill—which started a few months ago with the cooperation of other organizations and forces, including the law enforcement agencies and Expediency Discernment Council and which, thank God, has had much success. Our people are also very pleased with this.

We hear very favorable reports and our dear brothers have had some success so far. We hope they will reach their goal within the approved framework.

I will not discuss this today as our dear brothers have already spoken about these earlier through the mass media. I am not saying they have said all there is to say—more should be said. However, poeple hear about it in the mass media reports.

The second issue concerns that campaign against ruffians, gangs of extortionists and blackmailers, kidnappers, child molesters, murderers, armed robbers, and the like. This is the other program which has been given priorityin our agenda. These are not new developments. We had them before the revolution and even in the reign of the Qajars [dynasty preceding Pahlavi dynasty] and we all have heard many things or seen many things about these ruffians, bandits, and extortionists. We have heard about it all over the country. It is not just limited to our country either; most other countries have similar groups. [passage omitted]

In order to give you hope and make you happy I will cite a number of examples of work done thus far:

1. Abhar: There was a gang in Abhar who would kidnap children from homes or on the way to school, take them away, rape and murder them, and then destroy their bodies. Last week they were caught and the verdict of the Lord against them was carried out. All four were hanged in front of 20,000 people who came to watch and praised and thanked the system of the Islamic Republic for saving their children. [crowd chants]

2. Sabzvar: There was a mass clash where all manners of weapons including grenades, all unfortunately stolen from the fronts, were used. Some 100 people were involved in the clash. The judicial committee left for Sabzvar from Mashhad and within 10 days cleared all the files. Some were sentenced to death while others were sentenced to long prison terms. The entire area became peaceful again so that those who had weapons and had hidden them, in fear, handed them over, repented, and stopped behaving as ruffians. That was in Sabzvar.

3. Malayer: A prostitution gang was arrested and eight of them were executed in a day. They were corrupting men and women, married or otherwise, as well as children.

A man who had kidnapped and murdered a high school female student—and there were people trying to keep him from being punished—was hanged and his supporters themselves came and hanged him when they saw how serious the issue was. Some 30,000 people in the city came to demonstrate in favor of the government expressing their approval. Many telegrams were sent to the judiciary expressing their approval.

A ruffian was caught in Jiroft. He had reportedly committed highway robbery eight times, and he confessed to three cases. He had disarmed travellers, taken their cars, and injured them. His case was dealt with in 4 days and he was hanged. [passage omitted]

The judicary has given priority to these and, as I said a while ago and illustrated with examples, it will follow this with all its power. People should no longer need to walk their children to schools and then pick them up for fear of their being kidnapped by gangs. [passage omitted]

Second on Afghanistan, Lebanon

LD1002221189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, at Tehran University on 10 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] My second sermon will point out a few things:

1. Tomorrow's march, 11 February. God willing, we will not forget that we have a duty tomorrow. Men and women, young and old must take part in these national, religious, revolutionary, and political demonstrations. [passage omitted]

2. Praising and thanking the imam, the great leader of the revolution for his decision to free prisoners. [passage omitted]

3. About the Security Council, the UN and the 598 talks [as heard]. The international officials, the secretary general, the Security Council, who raised such a hue and cry about how Iran does not accept peace and makes trouble, are all quiet now. Have they caught a cold? What has happened to them? Have they taken off their glasses and now cannot see who is causing trouble? Who is it who should withdraw from the others' land? Who is it who makes absurd excuses every day instead of taking steps according to the next stages?

4. About Afghanistan: The issue of Afghanistan is extremely important. After 8 years the Islamic country of Afghanistan has finally triumphed. After heavy losses to the Afghan nation and their own nation, the Russians have said they would leave within the next few days. There is no question that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was a mistake and a sin. They themselves have admitted it.

There is also no doubt about the Afghan nation's emerging victoriously from this war. The point is, now that the Russians are leaving, they say: While we were here we trained and appointed a number people here and will leave them behind. We are leaving but please do no touch them. What kind of talk is that? Who would listen to it?

Well, you are leaving now. Take these puppets with you. You left behind ruins for the Afghan nation. Let them rebuild their ruins and deal with their problems themselves. And even if you are not prepared to do this, you will be forced to eventually.

There are a few things I would like to say to these Afghan mujahidin brothers. You brothers who bear arms, who have been in the trenches, do not act as in the battle of Ohod [battle fought in the time of Muhammad] and think that it is time to share the booty and lay down your weapons. If you do, you will fail. Remain in your trenches and resist as y
sessions held in Pakistan ou have done in the past. The
must include all the p n for the running of Afghanistan
Afghanistan. Do not try people who were involved in
to be opportunists.

The enemy is not asleep
your actions. Do not give. The enemy is not unaware of
let the enemies of the e opportunists a chance. Do not
mujahidin infiltrate you Afghan nation and the earnest
think of leaving anothur ranks. Each group must not
another group, or take aer group, must not eliminate
groups a share. You shall the shares and not give other
such thoughts your victoould know that if you entertain
no doubt about that. ory will turn into defeat. There is

At the same time we p
Afghan mujahidin brothpray to God for success for the
victory for Islam in the hers which would be the second
world in our time.

The next topic deals wit
peace that has taken pth Lebanon. The agreement and
Shi'ite groups, Amal anplace recently between the two
happy. I was talking earlid Hizbollah, has made us very
Sayyid Fadlallah and he ier with our brother Al-'Allamah
and security peace and t said that it is not just a military
lasting political peace. hat, God willing, it will lead to a
this. We should not forgeWe express our happiness over
Palestinian brothers whet our zealous, struggling Muslim
holy struggle under Israo are currently continuing their
eli jackboots.

As I said in my earlie
religious experts to act r sermon, I ask all 'ulema, all
diately, correctly, and won the wishes of the Lord imme-
carried out in the handswith caution because, if they are
is necessary. For some s of the just jurist, then the work
suggestions or complaint weeks now there have been no
We who believe the imats. We are awaiting our brothers.
consider this such a caim should not be left on his own
execution of all such dse. The imam wants the exact
giously qualified shouldecrees and those who are reli-
will be very greatful to t declare their readiness and we
them.

Musavi, Ministers Ar
rive in Kerman on Tour

LD1102141489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] According to a C
Kerman, Prime MinisteCentral News Unit report from
nied by the ministers or Mir Hoseyn Musavi, accompa-
treatment and medical f mines and metals, and health,
commander of the Army education [as heard], and the
arrived in Kerman this y of the Islamic Republic of Iran,
morning.

On arrival, the prime
radiology units at the se minister inaugurated scan and
tal. Later he delivered a cond Kerman University hospi-
thousands of the ever-p speech at a gathering of tens of
Kerman at the martyr [present-on-the scene citizens of
He referred to the achiename indistinct] sport's stadium.
evements of the 1st decade of the

Islamic revolution, and the great victories of the intrepid nation of Iran vis-a-vis the various conspiracies masterminded by the global arrogance.

He said: The 10 years which have passed in the lives of the Iranian nation are no doubt among the most unprecedented eras of all nations. The prime minister analyzed the 10 years of struggle by the Islamic Republic, and said: Despite continuous enemy conspiracies, our nation stands proud and noble. The slogans chanted by the citizens of Kerman, Tehran, and Tabriz are now being heard from the rebellious people of occupied Palestine.

He said: On the eve of the 2d decade of the Islamic revolution, our nation, ever hopeful and filled with confidence, having gone through the hardships of the war, is ready to build a prosperous country with its own hands. We constantly emphasize our Islamic values and will not surrender.

Opens Kerman Airbase

LD1102211489 Tehran IRNA in English 1948 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Kerman, Feb. 11, IRNA—The Kerman Airbase was inaugurated Saturday by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi who lauded the Air Force for having defended the Islamic Republic over the past decade.

"We have an Air Force which has ten years of experience behind it and is now ready to defend Islamic values," Musavi said. He also underlined the need to establish similar bases in the eastern parts of the country.

Also present at the ceremony were Air Force Commander Brigadier General Mansur Sattari, Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi, and Health Minister 'Alireza Marandi.

Musavi flew back to Tehran this afternoon at the end of his one day tour of the province which also included the opening of a copper furnace and a copper moulding plant.

Khamene'i Visit to City, Port in Khuzestan Ends

LD1202225989 Tehran IRNA in English 2007 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 22, IRNA—President Khamene'i returned to Tehran Sunday evening at the end of a one-day visit to the Persian Gulf port city of Mahshahr and Imam Khomeyni port during which he inaugurated reconstructed Razi chemical complex at the latter city. In Imam Khomeyni port President Khamene'i also inspected construction operations of a transit silo and its reconstructed jetty. The silo with a capacity of 75,000 tons can offload as much as 2,000 tons of bulk grain per hour from ships. Once operational the off-loading time of ships at this port drop to less than two days.

On Saturday afternoon President Khamene'i addressed a group of people at the mosque of the city saying that the post-war period has greatly enhanced the experience and know-how of government administrators throughout the country and that today unlike the past the world nations recognize Iran not because it exports oil, carpets and caviar, but for the bravery and resistance of its people.

President Khamene'i was accompanied in his visit to Khuzestan Province by Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh, Presidential Adviser Mostafa Mir Salim and a group of other officials.

Mohtashemi on Political Group Registration

LD1202095789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Presidential elections will be held next summer and elections for Islamic councils [shuraha-ye eslami] will be held during the second half of the year 68 [year begins 21 March 1989]. Interior Minister Mohtashemi, who has gone to Shahrud to take part in the glorious 10 Days of Dawn celebrations, in an interview with IRNA while announcing the above added: The exact date for these elections will be announced in the future.

He said: As regards political groups and societies, we are at the stage of registration, and so far 38 political parties and groups have registered their formation. After they issue thier constitutions and regulations, and the Article 10 Committee has approved them, licences for their activities will be issued.

He added: Out of the 38 parties and groups which have already registered, 17 or 18 of them were active in the past, but the rest of them are new.

New Police Political-Ideological Chief Appointed

LD1302112989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, the commander in chief, has accepted the resignation of the imam's representative and director of the Political Ideological Bureau of the Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He praised him for his valuable services and appointed Rasul Montajabnia to the post.

The text of the decree of his excellency the imam follows:

In His exalted name. To Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Sheykh Rasul Montajabnia, may God protect you. For his valuable services I thank Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Sheykh Mohammad Mehdi Movahedi-Kermani, my representative and the official responsible for the Political Ideological Bureau of the Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who is a learned and pious man sympathetic to Islam and the revolution. His extremely valuable services to all police personnel are admirable. He has resigned because of heart disease and has asked that another person assume this responsibility.

You, a learned and zealous person and sympathetic to Islam and the revolution, are appointed my representative and director of the Political Ideological Bureau of the Police of the Islamic Republic.

I hope that, like Mr Movahedi, you will continue to strive in the service of Islam and the dear police personnel. I pray to God Almighty for your success. Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni

[Dated] 13 February 1989

Pakistan

Reportage on Demonstration Against USIS

Police Fire on Demonstrators

BK1202112789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1122 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 12 (AFP)—Several people were killed and many injured here Sunday when police opened fire on thousands of demonstrators who attacked the U.S. Cultural Center in Islamabad, eye-witnesses said.

They said police started shooting after the demonstrators tried to set fire to the U.S. Cultural Center in protest against the publication in the United States of a controversial book considered "blasphemous" by some Moslems.

The book, "Satanic Verses" by the British writer Salman Rushdie, has already sparked criticism from Moslem groups and has been banned in several countries.

Hundreds of policemen in riot gear responded to repeated charges by the demonstrators by opening fire and throwing tear gas grenades, eye-witnesses said.

The U.S. flag belonging to the Cultural Center was burnt by the protestors who also broke many of the windows of the building.

Moslem religious leaders had called for a large demonstration to protest against the book, which has already been published in Britain and is expected to appear soon in the United States.

Pakistan's 100 million population is predominantly Moslem.

5 Killed, 21 Wounded

BK1202142689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Two identical adjournment motions were admitted into the National Assembly for discussion this evening. The motions were related to the firing of teargas shells by the police at a procession which had been taken out to protest against the unholy book "Satanic Verses" published in the United Kingdom. The motions were moved by Maulana Fazlur Rahman of the Jamiyat-i 'Ulema-i Islam and Sheikh Rashid of the Islamic Democratic Alliance.

Police sources in Islamabad say that some people started throwing stones when the procession reached near the American Center, injuring some policemen and breaking some windowpanes. The police fired teargas shells to disperse the crowd.

A group of troublemakers, who had joined the procession, started shooting at the police, which also resorted to firing to disperse the crowd. Five people were killed and 21 wounded in the exchange of fire. The injured were rushed to the hospital for medical treatment.

Assembly Debates Incident

BK1202155989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Two identical adjournment motions were admitted into the National Assembly for discussion today. The motions related to the firing of tear gas shells by the police at a procession which had been taken out to protest against the unholy book "Satanic Verses" published in the United Kingdom. The motions were moved by Sheikh Rashid Ahmad of the Islamic Democratic Alliance and Maulana Fazlur Rahman of the Jamiyat-i 'Ulema-i Islam. The speaker has set tomorrow's date for the discussion on these privilege motions.

The movers of the motions said that the procession was peaceful and the police fired tear gas shells at them without any provocation. They said the action was taken deliberately and as a result, several people were wounded, including Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan and Maulana Fazlur Rahman.

Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan did not oppose the motions, but he said that a discussion on them should be held tomorrow when all facts regarding the incident come to light. The interior minister assured the members that the government holds them in very high esteem and deeply regrets the incidents. He, however, mentioned some damage caused to public property and said that the incidents will be investigated.

Maulana Fazlur Rahman walked out of the House saying that he was being accused of causing damage to property. All members, except two, of the opposition also walked out of the Assembly. The two who did not walk out belonged to Jamiyat-i 'Ulema-i Pakistan [JUP] and the Awami National Party respectively.

Speaking on a point of order, Dr Sher Afghan of the JUP said that staging a walkout against the admission of one's own privilege motion is surprising. Speaker Mairaj Khalid also said that there was no justification for the opposition members to stage a walkout after the admission of the motions for discussion tomorrow.

Later, the House resumed its discussion on the president's address to a joint session of both houses of the parliament in December last year.

When the House reassembled after the evening prayer recess, Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan told the Assembly that the government has ordered a judicial inquiry into the Islamabad incidents. He said the inquiry will be conducted by a Lahore High Court judge who will be nominated by the High Court chief justice. He said the government will take strong action on the basis of that report. He added that the government is grieved at the loss of lives and injuries sustained by some members of the parliament as a result of the Islamabad incidents.

'Deep Sorrow' Expressed

BK1302042689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] The president and the prime minister have expressed deep sorrow and anguish over the regrettable incidents in Islamabad yesterday.

In a message, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said he was extremely sad after hearing about this regrettable incident. He said those who are found responsible after the judicial inquiry will be dealt with sternly.

In a message from Shanghai, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has expressed deep regret over this incident, which could have been averted. The prime minister said the protest demonstration, which is being held in connection with the publication of a book ["Satanic Verses" by Salman Rushdie], does not have anything to do with Pakistan. The government of Pakistan has already banned this book. Benazir Bhutto said the government is also seeking to have this problematic book banned by the United States and other countries. She said: My government cannot even think about any simple thing against the dignity of Islam, Prophets of God, and the Prophet Muhammad.

The prime minister has appealed to her brothers and elders to spend their energies for the welfare of the nation. Ms Benazir Bhutto has drawn attention to the date and time chosen by the antidemocratic forces and said it shows that their intentions and objectives were not to protest against this filthy book but were designed to harm the stability of Pakistan. The objective is to spoil the relations of Pakistan with friendly nations at a time when the solution of the Afghanistan issue is at its last stage.

The prime minister expressed sympathy with the affected families and assured the nation that such regrettable incidents will not be allowed to recur.

The chief ministers of Punjab, Sind and NWFP have expressed deep sorrow and anguish over the casualties in this sorrowful incident.

According to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, 13 persons among those injured in yesterday's incident are still in the hospital and the condition of three of them is critical. Doctors are attending them day and night.

Senate Discusses Protest

BK1302091589 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] The Senate, which resumed its session in Islamabad this morning, offered fateha [prayers] for those killed in Islamabad yesterday while protesting against the book "Satanic Verses." The chairman suspended the business of the house for today in order to allow members to speak on the incident.

Initiating the discussion, Mr Mohsin Siddiqui called for an urgent departmental inquiry to pinpoint the responsibility for yesterday's ugly incident.

Senator Tariq Chaudhary asked the government to lodge a strong protest with the British and the United States Governments against the publication of this derogatory book. Mr Shad Mohammad Khan demanded payment of immediate compensation to the bereaved families of victims.

Aqilzadah Bahrawar Saeed described the incident as a planned conspiracy. Maulana Samiul Haq expressed great sorrow over the loss of lives in the incident. Qazi Hussain Ahmed said the author of the book could not be a true believer and was not a Muslim.

Police Action 'Sharply' Condemned

LD1302110189 Tehran IRNA in English 1047 GMT 13 Feb 89

["Police Widely Blamed for Mishandling Sunday's Book Demonstration"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 13, IRNA—Pakistani 'ulema, political parties, and student organizations sharply condemned police action in the wake of Sunday's violent demonstrations in front of a U.S. Cultural Center that left five people killed and over 80 others wounded.

A number of political parties, including the Muslim League and the Jamiyat-i Islami, demanded members of the police widely held responsible for the deaths to be punished. All those killed suffered bullet wounds.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in a message sent from Beijing where she is conducting a state visit also criticized the police for their "unwise action" and ordered a high-level investigation.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said firm measures would be taken against those responsible and urged the people to stay calm.

Pol
me ice tightened security around a number of govern-
sec nt buildings Monday [13 February] and hundreds of
Am rity forces were spread out in the vicinity of the
erican Cultural Center.
Ma
stri y political organizations called for a one-day general
wh ce which was supported by two members of parliament
der were injured in the demonstration organized to
and the banning of a controversial novel in the U.S.
Sal
Bri nan Rushdie's "Satanic Verses", first published in
for ain, has been banned in a number of Muslim states
bla what many Muslims have regarded as insulting and
inc phemous descriptions of many early Islamic figures,
uding the prophet (peace be upon him).
Bo
Ru n a Muslim in India and now living in England,
Mc hdie was quoted by London's daily GUARDIAN
ma nday that he was "very upset" by the incident and
an ntained that his fictional book was not meant to be
i-Islamic. The book has been banned in Pakistan.
Th
"A usands of Pakistanis shouting "American dogs" and
Isl lah-u Akbar" stormed the U.S. Cultural Center in
So mabad Sunday and burned the Center's American flag.
pu
cer ne press reports here claimed that the protestor who
led down the flag was killed by a shot from within the
ter which was guarded by U.S. Marines.
Bh
BA
14 **utto Denies Attack Planned on Afghanistan**
1202144489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Te
Pa xt] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has said that
ide Sh istan and China are old allies and there is a complete
ntity of views between the two on international issues.
Ab was addressing a news conference in Beijing today.
Co
foout her talks with the Chinese prime minister and the
mmunist Party leaders, Bhutto said their talks
Arused on Afghanistan and Cambodian problems.
he
Pswering a question about the allegations leveled by the
Afd of the Kabul regime, the prime minister denied
akistan is massing troops to prepare for an attack on
prhanistan. Pakistani troops are not being massed
neng the border with Afghanistan. They are facing many
Oblems relating to national integrity and they do not
bed to indulge in any adventure outside the country.
cor troops are stationed on our borders to defend our
ofoved motherland from external aggression and our
ntry does not believe in interfering in internal affairs
Tbther countries, she added.
pe
coe prime minister said Pakistan hopes the Afghan
esple will be able to set up a broad-based consultative
ncil so an interim representative government can be
ablished in Afghanistan.

Bhutto Departs for Official Visit To PRC
BK1102051689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0500 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto left Islamabad this morning on a 3-day official visit to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of Premier Li Peng. Ms Benazir Bhutto is to hold talks with Premier Li Peng and other Chinese leaders. She will visit the industrial city of Shanghai in addition to Beijing.

The prime minister has selected the PRC for her first foreign trip after assuming office which reflects the special, close, and friendly relations between the two countries. China has always supported Pakistan's position on Afghanistan at various international organizations and gatherings. The prime minister's visit will further promote the growing bilateral cooperation and will provide an opportunity to leaders of the two countries to exchange views on regional and international issues.

Yaqub Khan, Others in Delegation
BK1102063189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has left Islamabad on her first 3-day official visit to the People's Republic of China today. She was seen off at the airport by Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad, Deputy Speaker of National Assembly Mrs Ashraf Abbasi, federal ministers, ministers of state, advisers, parliament members, the Chinese charge d'affaires in Pakistan, and senior officials.

The prime minister's delegation includes Sahabzada Yaqub Khan; special assistants Major General, Retired, Nasirullah Khan Babar and Dr Nasir Ahmad Sheikh; advisers Iqbal Akhund, Rao Rashid, Major General, Retired M.A. Chowdhury, and V.A. Jafarey; Sind Telecommunication Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani; NWFP Housing and Communications Minister Qamar Abbas; and a team of newsmen. [passage omitted]

Ishaq Khan, Bhutto Greet Iran on National Day
BK1102060789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto have sent greetings to Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi on the occasion of Iranian national day which is being observed today.

In his message, the president said that relations between Pakistan and Iran have always been cordial and friendly. For centuries, the people of the two countries have been gaining strength from the high moral values and ideologies of Islam, and this heritage, which is still alive and uninterrupted, constitutes the basis of our mutually beneficial relations.

The prime minister in her message said that relations between Pakistan and Iran are based on eternal and solid foundations of common faith and culture. We have undergone identical historical experiences and it is natural for the two countries to maintain close cooperation in various bilateral and international fields.

Iran's Mo'ayeri Arrives To Discuss Afghanistan

BK1202113989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] The deputy prime minister of Iran, Mr 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, arrived in Islamabad today for talks with Pakistani leaders on bilateral matters and the latest developments regarding Afghanistan. He was received at the airport by the federal minister for states and frontier regions, Mr Mohammad Hanif Khan. He is carrying a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i for President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, which is expected to be delivered to him tomorrow.

Meets With Ishaq Khan

BK1302082289 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] The Iranian deputy prime minister, Mr 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, called on the president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad today and delivered a message form the Iranian president, Mr 'Ali Khamene'i. They also discussed matters of bilateral interest, including latest developments in Afghanistan.

Ishaq Khan Meets With Departing Indian Ambassador

BK1102165089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said the democratically elected Government of Pakistan wants to live in peace and have cooperative relations with all neighboring countries including India. Talking to the outgoing Indian ambassador, Mr S.K. Singh, during his farewell call in Islamabad today, the president emphasized that our relationship has to be built step by step on the basis of sovereign equality and demonstrable mutuality of benefit. Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan said the resolution of fundamental issues between the two countries held the key to the removal of doubts and suspicion that cloud the mutual relations.

Surface-to-Surface Missiles Successfully Tested

BK1102155889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Indigenously manufactured long range surface-to-surface missiles were successfully test fired on the Makran Coast this morning. The missiles demonstrated the desired performance. Today's demonstration was witnessed by senior civilian and military officials. Chief of the Army Staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, was informed of this at a briefing in Karachi today. The missiles have been named Hatf-1 and Hatf-2. Hatf literally means lethal, and it is the name of the sword Prophet Muhammad used in several holy wars.

Hatf-1 and Hatf-2, whose striking ranges are 80 and 300 km respectively, were test fired very successfully, and the purpose of the experiment was to test and further improve this system.

Indigenously made multi-barrel rocket launchers were also tested and their 25-kilometer range test was successful. Attempts are being made to increase their range to 30 kilometers.

After the briefing, the chief of the Army Staff said this success is a milestone in the defense production sector and is a great tribute to our nation with a democratic ideology under which national institutions like the Armed Forces are flourishing and achieving great success.

4,000 Workers on 'Rampage' in Faisalabad

BK1302123189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1752 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Faisalabad, Pakistan, Feb 12 (AFP)—Nearly 4,000 workers protesting the alleged murder of a colleague by a plant owner went on a rampage Sunday [12 February] and damaged several factories, police sources said.

The protesters set fire to petrol pumps, a fruit juices factory still under construction, and other installations, the sources said.

All power loom industries here remained closed Sunday to protest the alleged murder Saturday of Mohammad Hussain, whom workers say was strangled by a factory owner after he went to claim his wages.

The man had earlier been fired, the workers said.

'Indefinite Curfew' Imposed

BK1302024089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] In Faisalabad, indefinite curfew has been imposed from midnight in D-type colony, Batala colony, factory area, in five police station areas in Ghulam Mohammadabad, Jhang Bazaar, and in Samnabad police post areas.

This action has been taken to bring the law and order situation under control due to protest demonstrations and processions after the murder of a power loom factory worker. The district administration has announced a grant of 50,000 rupees for the deceased worker. Schools and colleges in the city will remain closed today and tomorrow.

Meanwhile, a large number of people from various walks of life participated in a peace march in Faisalabad yesterday. They urged workers and citizens to remain calm.

Sri Lanka

Essential Services Ordered To Remain Open

BK1102113689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1100 GMT 11 Feb 89

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Excerpt] Colombo, Feb 11 (AFP)—The government declared hospitals, banks and other services essential Saturday [11 February] and ordered that they continue to operate amid reports that Sinhalese rebels may be planning a strike prior to Wednesday's parliamentary polls.

Officials here said the move was aimed at heading off a probable strike by the Sinhalese militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) before the February 15 election.

Hospitals, banks, posts, telecommunications, public administration and all services connected with the conduct of the poll were declared essential with immediate effect, a government statement said.

Under the order, those who fail to report for work are committing an offense and could face a jail sentence. [passage omitted]

Attempt Made To Assassinate Education Minister

BK1202092489 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0904 GMT 12 Feb 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 12 Feb (LANKAPUVATH)—An attempt was made on the life of Minister of Education Ranil Wickremasinghe, and U.S. Perera the UNP candidate for Kelaniya, this morning when they were travelling in an open jeep in the Kelaniya electorate.

Mr. Wickremasinghe and Mr. Perera were touring the Galborella area and as they were approaching Polhena Co-operative, 2 youths on a motorcycle had come from a side road and aimed a gun. The Western Province Council's minister of education, who was also in the jeep, had seen the gunmen and raised an alarm.

The security jeep following the minister's vehicle had immediately raced forward and chased the motor bicycle. The rider of the motor bicycle lost control and had fallen. The crowd who had come to welcome minister Wickremasinghe pounced on the two and apprehended them. The Sapugaskanda and Kelaniya police are conducting investigations.

1 Killed, 25 Wounded in Attack on Rally 10 Feb

BK1102073889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0732 GMT 11 Feb 89

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 11 (AFP)—A blast ripped through a ruling party meeting here killing a student and wounding 25 as violence continued to plague the runup to Wednesday's parliamentary polls in Sri Lanka, officials here said Saturday.

The grenade attack on the United National Party (UNP) rally in the Borella District of Colombo late Friday came minutes after a senior minister left the meeting, the officials said.

It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the attack, but similar strikes in the past have been blamed on the anti-government Sinhalese militant Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front).

The JVP has vowed to disrupt Wednesday's parliamentary election, the first in 11 years, contested by some 1,936 candidates representing 19 political parties and independent groups.

Some 9.34 million people are eligible to vote at some 8,070 polling booths manned by some 80,000 public servants.

The Foreign Ministry said 18 foreign observers, including five from Britain, have agreed to monitor the election. The group is expected here Sunday, the ministry said.

Since nominations closed early last month, 13 candidates have been killed by suspected JVP activists and Tamil rebels of the dominant separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) said Friday that the violence in the country had escalated and it feared people would be unable to vote freely in the general election.

SLFP leader and former premier Sirima Bandaranaike said 1,100 people have been killed since the December 19 presidential election which she narrowly lost to President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Among the victims were 54 SLFP supporters, including seven candidates, Mrs. Bandaranaike told reporters here Friday.

Local press reports Saturday said at least 33 people were killed in separate incidents involving Tamil and Sinhalese rebels since Thursday.

"Contrary to hollow claims of the ruling party that murder and violence had declined after the election of a new president, there has in fact been an unprecedented upsurge of nationwide violence since December 19," Mrs. Bandaranaike said.

The presidential election was marred by low voter turnout and unprecedented violence which left at least 30 people dead on the day of balloting.

Officials here said the JVP was responsible for most of the violence while human rights organisations here charged that killings by ruling party supporters and security forces were continuing.

Some of the attacks on party meetings and election offices were due to infighting between candidates, a military official said.

The general election is to be conducted for the first time here under a propotional representation system.

Voters can mark preferences for three candidates of one party from a list of eight to 23 candidates depending on the population in the 22 electoral districts in the island republic.

Local papers have been packed with advertisements by individual candidates and posters have been put up on almost every city wall.

Indian officials here said campaigning had picked up in Tamil-populated northern and eastern regions where Indian troops have been deployed under a July 1987 peace accord aimed at ending Sri Lanka's Tamil separatist conflict.

"There are not many public meetings, but house-to-house campaigning is going on at a hectic pace," an official said Saturday.

Militant Tamil Group Campaigns for Candidates

BK1102075689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] In a significant development, the Sri Lankan Tamil militant organization, EROS, has come out for the first time to canvas for its candidates for the forthcoming general elections. Its candidates are all contesting as independents in the 15th February elections.

In its manifesto released in Jaffna today, the EROS has placed main emphasis on the restoration of peace in the Northeastern Province. The manifesto also pledges to work for the recognition of a distinct Tamil ethnic identity and to achieve unity among the various Tamil groups.

Our correspondent, Jairaj, reports from Jaffna that this is the first time since the filing of the nomination that EROS, an ally of the LTTE, has come out openly to campaign for its candidates. So far, it had engaged only in a covert campaign.

LTTE Leader Vows To Kill 'All Candidates'

BK1302025689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0240 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Jaffna, Sri Lanka, Feb 13 (AFP)—A leader of Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil separatist group in this battle-scarred town has vowed to kill all candidates contesting Wednesday's [15 February] parliamentary poll in Tamil regions.

"We are going to shoot all candidates and will attack polling booths even if they are guarded by the IPKF (Indian Peace Keeping Force)," a leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said in an interview here.

India has nearly 50,000 troops stationed in the country's northeast under a July 1987 accord with Sri Lanka that sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

The LTTE, which first accepted, then rejected the pact, has called for a boycott of Wednesday's parliamentary election, the first in 11 years.

"We will be out in full strength to disrupt the polling," said Kandasamy, the leader of the LTTE's political wing in their former Jaffna stronghold.

Former guerrillas movements are among 10 groups contesting the election in Tamil areas.

Walls here are plastered with campaign posters and a few low-key election meetings have been held in the past week.

Youths armed with automatic weapons, members of groups taking part in the polls, roam the streets of Jaffna day and night to harass LTTE activists, their arch-rivals.

As Mr. Kandasamy gave the interview at Jaffna University Friday, unarmed LTTE lookouts kept watch for Indian troops and rival militants.

The lean, dark, 27-year-old leader was accompanied by the group's Jaffna tax collector, Varathan, and another LTTE official identified only as Raja.

Varathan showed what he said was a cyanide capsule he wore on a necklace to assert that he was a hardcore activist.

"We don't carry our LTTE identity cards with us now as it is too risky," Mr. Kandasamy said.

Many rebels have committed suicide by swallowing cyanide in the past to prevent capture.

Elsewhere on the campus, more than 100 students staged a token hunger strike to protest the death last week of two students in a clash with Indian troops.

Mr. Kandasamy said that as part of the LTTE's plan to disrupt balloting, the group has ordered all transport services to suspend their operations from Monday to Wednesday, the day of polling.

"The problems of the Tamil-speaking people will not end with the election," he said. "The Sri Lankan Government is only trying to divert the direction of our liberation movement."

Mr. Kandasamy declined to give the number of rebels operating in the Jaffna peninsula, where Tamil militancy is at its strongest, saying it was a "military secret," but claimed that his group was stronger than before.

"There is only one party left in the liberation struggle," he said. "So all the people support us."

He said 2,000 new recruits were being trained in the north and east and a 500-strong suicide squad was standing by for a last-ditch attack on IPKF troops if they failed to withdraw from Sri Lanka.

"We have no shortage of arms, ammunition, drugs or food." He said. "We have enough ammunition to go on for 10 years."

Mr. Kandasamy claimed that some foreign countries were helping them in their struggle, but declined to identify them.

"Those countries cannot use us against India," he said. "We are only against the Indian soldiers in Sri Lanka and not the Indian people."

He said the LTTE would only be satisfied when an independent State of Eelam was created and that the fighting would continue until then.